

Minutes
Special Council Meeting
3 South Main Street
Thornville, OH
May 18, 2020

Council Members:

Lynne Snider
Josh Hultgren
Daria Carr
Erica O'Neill
Sterling Krout
Gina Kaetzel

Other Village Officials:

Dan Harmon, Mayor
Traci Sturgill, Village Administrator
Stephanie Reyher, Clerk of Council

Guests Present: Nathaniel Johnson

Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance:

Mayor Dan Harmon called the Village of Thornville Special Council Meeting to order on May 18, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. by saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call:

Roll Call taken was taken with Council President Josh Hultgren, Councilmember Lynne Snider, Councilmember Daria Carr, Councilmember Erica O'Neill, Councilmember Sterling Krout and Councilmember Gina Kaetzel present.

Motion to Approve the Business Agenda for Monday, May 18, 2020: Mayor Dan Harmon requested a **Motion** to approve the Business Agenda for the Special Council Meeting on Monday May 18, 2020. A **Motion** was made by Councilmember Lynne Snider and was seconded by Councilmember Sterling Krout. A roll call vote was taken with all members voting aye.

Lynne Snider – aye
Josh Hultgren -aye
Daria Carr – aye
Erica O'Neill – aye
Sterling Krout – aye
Gina Kaetzel - aye
Motion passed 6-0

New Business

➤ **Swimming Pool** – Councilmember Lynne Snider said that she talked to Cary Bowers from Perry County this morning, she wanted to make sure they weren't doing or asking for anything extra besides what the state recommendations were. Councilmember Lynne Snider said that Cary Bowers had mentioned that the concession stand should not be a problem, but 6 feet distancing during swimming will be hard to enforce. Cary Bowers told Councilmember Lynne Snider that they won't come down hard on the pools in regards to the social distancing guidelines, they will leave it up to the villages. What he feels is important is the bathrooms being cleaned every two hours and concession stand being cleaned. Mayor Dan Harmon asked if we can keep concession workers 6 feet apart in the concession stand. Councilmember Lynne Snider said we only need to have one worker in there at a time. We could possibly have two workers during the busy times if one is just running the register and one is doing the food. Cary Bowers told Councilmember Lynne Snider that they will still inspect water as usual, but other than that just keeps things clean and remember to wash hands often and as long as you keep the social distancing, they will not tell villages to open or not open the pools. Councilmember Daria Carr asked Councilmember Lynne Snider what this means for pool memberships? Councilmember Lynne Snider said that she is not sure, but maybe it means we don't sell memberships because we may have to turn people away if there are too many in the pool. We may just have to have everyone pay at the door. Mayor Dan Harmon said that he agreed with having everyone pay at the door but that we would be bringing in a lot of cash. Councilmember Daria Carr agreed and said that with that amount of money transfer happening we would have to be more aware of hand washing as well. Mayor Dan Harmon said that is something we can deal with. Village Administrator Traci Sturgill said that on her EMA weekly call it was said that we would have to follow the guidelines by marking 6 foot lines and only letting people next to each other that are family or live in the same house. Councilmember Erica O'Neill asked Councilmember Lynne Snider how we could keep the teens from congregating or playing football among other things while at the pool. Councilmember Lynne Snider said she wasn't sure how we could do that. Councilmember Daria Carr asked Councilmember Lynne Snider if she had been following what the penalties may be. She also asked if we knew if we could get a citation or fine from

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not following guidelines or if we have any liability if someone were to contract the virus. Councilmember Lynne Snider said she had contemplated having patrons sign a liability waiver, but these were questions that our attorney would have to answer. Village Administrator Traci Sturgill said that she had sent the question about liability to Zets and the answer was that we are always open for lawsuits but if we don't follow Governor DeWine's orders, we are definitely open for them. Council President Josh Hultgren asked how we would be able to manage all of the guidelines and how much we are putting on our Pool Manager to try to control these things. Councilmember Lynne Snider said she believes we should have one person in control of this. That person should be responsible for taking money and keeping track of how many people are in the pool at a given time. Council President Josh Hultgren asked if we would have to hire an additional person to be in charge of keeping track of this or if we have enough people on staff already. Councilmember Lynne Snider said that we won't know until we find out exactly how many people we are able to have in the pool at one time but that the Red Cross numbers are 50 people to 1 lifeguard. Mayor Dan Harmon said that what it comes down to is whether we will have enough people there to make it financially viable to open the pool, especially if we need to hire an additional person. Village Administrator Traci Sturgill said that we may need to hire two more people. We will need one to take money and keep track of how many people are going in and out and one person to clean the bathrooms. Councilmember Lynne Snider added that the bathrooms just need to be cleaned every two hours but that it is a lot to police. Village Administrator Traci Sturgill said that we currently have 3 lifeguards that are certified. Councilmember Lynne Snider said that the cashier won't need to be certified and also asked Village Administrator Traci Sturgill to post online to see if we can get another guard who is already certified. Councilmember Daria Carr asked if there are signage requirements and if we have a PA system in place. Councilmember Lynne Snider said yes, we will need to have signage posted and we do have a PA system for announcements. Mayor Dan Harmon asked how quickly we could open the pool and how much it would cost to open. Councilmember Lynne Snider said that the water for the pool is free and it takes about three days to fill it. She thinks we would need about three weeks to get ready. Councilmember Daria Carr asked who would be the point person for patrons who have concerns. Councilmember Lynne Snider said she believes Village Administrator Traci Sturgill would be that person that customers would go to with questions or concerns. Village Administrator Traci Sturgill asked if the person taking money would be the one to ask if people were feeling ill before allowing them into the pool. Councilmember Erica O'Neill said we should have signage posted saying if a person is sick, they should stay home. Mayor Dan Harmon said that he believes the person who is pointing out or confronting people who are not following the guidelines should not be a high school aged person, it would be too much responsibility on them. Village Administrator Traci Sturgill brought up a concern that there is not hot water available in the bathrooms for hand washing. Councilmember Lynne Snider said we could put hand sanitizer in the bathrooms. Mayor Dan Harmon said that hot water is not key and that cold water and soap should be okay. Councilmember Lynne Snider said that she feels if we do not try to open it may hurt the next Parks and Recreations levy. She feels if we open and Governor DeWine shuts the pools down, that at least we can say we tried to do it for our community. Mayor Dan Harmon said that we haven't had to make a lot of big decisions, but he feels this is a big one. Citizen Nathaniel Johnson added that there will be pros and cons no matter what Council chooses to do but it needs to be something they are willing to live with. Village Administrator Traci Sturgill added that with only three guards available, they would be working 40 hours per week and may have to work 7 days per week. Mayor Dan Harmon said that we could not expect anyone to work every single day. Council President Josh Hultgren asked if we needed to be open everyday. Mayor Dan Harmon said if we aren't selling memberships and it's a pay as you go, then we do not have to be open everyday. Councilmember Lynne Snider said that she had talked to Fiscal Officer Melissa Tremblay and she said to take the cost out of it, there is money available. She said there are places to tap into if needed so that nothing had to come out of the general fund. Mayor Dan Harmon said that we may do okay if people are paying every time they go to the pool and not buying discounted memberships. Councilmember Erica O'Neill asked if we will allow only people that live in the village to go to the pool or if it will be open to anyone. Councilmember Lynne Snider said that she thinks it would be too much for the person working the gate to monitor who lives in the village and who doesn't. Mayor Dan Harmon added that he would hate to restrict admission to people who are paying full price. Councilmember Erica O'Neill said she feels there is a lot of responsibility and rules in place and it is a bit overwhelming but she would like to open the pool for the kids. Councilmember Sterling Kroat added that he agrees with Councilmember Lynne Snider that we have to try to open. He believes we should take it slow and figure it out as we go. He added that he has talked to his neighbors and other citizens and asked if they are comfortable with the pool opening. Everyone he has spoke with has said yes. He feels that if the community is behind it, we should do our part and try to open. Councilmember Lynne Snider agreed and thanked Councilmember Sterling Kroat. She added that if we do not sell memberships to the pool and we have to close, we will not have to reimburse anyone. Mayor Dan Harmon said that he had figured that the Thornville

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Pool was roughly half the size of an olympic size pool. Figuring off of that length and width we would have approximately 150 6 foot increments. Village Administrator Traci Sturgill asked if that meant we would be limited to 150 customers at the pool. Mayor Dan Harmon answered yes, that would be 150 people allowed in at one time. Village Administrator Traci Sturgill said that would mean we would need to have three lifeguards. Councilmember Gina Kaetzel asked if we could use that number to figure out what approximately we could make daily and weekly, with 150 people at \$5 per person. Mayor Dan Harmon said just figuring admission and not concessions because we had figured out earlier that the concession stand didn't really make any money, we could potentially bring in \$750/day. Councilmember Lynne Snider said to figure without concessions because we would try to keep a smaller inventory and just sell what did well last year, pizza, hot dogs, pretzels and slushies. Councilmember Daria Carr asked how the 150 people compared to the numbers that went to the pool in the previous years. Mayor Dan Harmon asked Village Administrator Traci Sturgill if she knew what the daily attendance was last year. Village Administrator Traci Sturgill said it averaged from 10 – 70 people. Councilmember Daria Carr asked if looking at those numbers if we should limit the attendance to 100 or 50 so that we only need 1 or 2 lifeguards instead of 3. Councilmember Sterling Krout said that he could see a high demand for the pool. Mayor Dan Harmon agreed adding that we may be the only pool open. Councilmember Lynne Snider asked if we would have the person working the gate keep track of how many people enter and exit. She gave the example of a family of 10 leaving and then letting in another group of 10. Mayor Dan Harmon said yes and we would have to find a way for them to keep track. Village Administrator Traci Sturgill asked if anyone knew where we could get cleaning supplies for the pool. Councilmember Erica O'Neill recommended getting in touch with a cleaning company such as Eco Lab. She said that Eco Lab is the cleaning company that the school uses. Councilmember Lynne Snider added that she believes Eco Lab is located in Hebron. Councilmember Erica O'Neill asked if the kids going to the pool would have to be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. Councilmember Lynne Snider asked Village Administrator Traci Sturgill if the age for them to go to the pool unaccompanied by an adult was 12 years old. Village Administrator Traci Sturgill said the age for them to go unaccompanied by an adult was 14 years old. Mayor Dan Harmon asked Citizen Nate Johnson if he had his own calculations for how many people could be in the pool at one time. Citizen Nate Johnson responded that an Olympic size pool is 13,000 square feet, so the Thornville pool would be approximately half of that. He said when doing an area calculation, it is not figured by 6 linear feet, it has to be all around. He then explained that we would figure that one person would occupy approximately 113 square feet of space, to accomplish the six feet social distancing rule. We would then take the area and divide it by 113 square feet to get the capacity. He said that the Thornville pool is approximately 7,000 square feet, so divide that by 113, that would mean we could have 60 people in the pool at one time. Councilmember Lynne Snider said having 60 people allowed in the pool changes the scenario a lot. Councilmember Daria Carr said that the Red Cross rules state that it's one lifeguard to 50 people so knowing that would it make sense to keep it at that number. Councilmember Lynne Snider said she thinks 60 would be a good number. Councilmember Daria Carr said that she just looked up the Red Cross guidelines and they state that they recommend two guard at all times. She also said that Red Cross suggests that once you reach 50 you should add one guard per every additional 25 people. Councilmember Lynne Snider asked if we adhere to the 60 people allowed how many guards will we need? Village Administrator Traci Sturgill said that we would still need 3. Councilmember Lynne Snider said we could have the manager or assistant manager work the front door. She also said we may need 2 guards but if it's not busy we can send one guard home. Councilmember Daria Carr asked what happens to the pay scale if a lifeguard has to work in the concession stand or if a manager has to lifeguard? Village Administrator Traci Sturgill said that the assistant manager and manager are on and off the chairs so often that it is too hard to keep track of their times, so we just kept their pay rate the same. Mayor Dan Harmon added that even if the managers are lifeguarding or working the door, they still have the same responsibility as managers, overseeing everyone, no matter which position they may be working at a given time. Mayor Dan Harmon said that we now have talked through everything and he feels we have enough information to make a decision. Councilmember Lynne Snider asked what a good opening date would be. She asked if June 8 would be too soon. Councilmember Erica O'Neill said that she would recommend June 15. Mayor Dan Harmon said that he went into this meeting thinking about the fiscal aspects and the amount of money that we lost last year. He said he was opposed to opening the pool, but after listening to everyone and talking through the restrictions, he is in favor of trying to open.

Council President Josh Hulgren made a **Motion** to open the Thornville Pool for the 2020 season. The **Motion** was seconded by Councilmember Lynne Snider. A roll call vote was taken.

Lynne Snider – aye
Erica O'Neill – aye

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Daria Carr - nay
Gina Kaetzel - aye
Josh Hultgren - aye
Sterling Krout - aye
Motion passed 5-1

Council President Josh Hultgren suggested we have a few more meetings after this to work out the details. Mayor Dan Harmon agreed that Parks and Recreation Committee should meet to discuss the pool opening. Village Administrator Traci Sturgill asked what she needed to do and how many more lifeguards to hire. Councilmember Lynne Snider said to try to hire two more lifeguards. Village Administrator Traci Sturgill asked if she needed to hire an extra person to work the door. Councilmember Lynne Snider said no she doesn't believe we will need another person. Village Administrator Traci Sturgill asked if we were okay with only one concession employee. Councilmember Lynne Snider said yes. Mayor Dan Harmon asked what was needed to get things going. Village Administrator Traci Sturgill asked if she should start ordering concession supplies now. Mayor Dan Harmon said yes, to move forward. Village Administrator Traci Sturgill asked if the managers could come in and start working and getting the pool ready. Councilmember Lynne Snider said yes, they could start working. Village Administrator Traci Sturgill asked if they were supposed to take the seats out of the pool area, specifically the picnic tables and benches. Mayor Dan Harmon said yes, we are supposed to remove the communal seating. Village Administrator Traci Sturgill asked how to handle someone complaining or asking about the social distancing guidelines. Mayor Dan Harmon said we should respond that we are doing everything that we can to adhere to the guidelines. If someone is not comfortable, they should not come to the pool.

Council Comments:

Councilmember Erica O'Neill said let's open the pool and see how it goes.
Councilmember Gina Kaetzel said when we started the meeting she was thinking it wouldn't pass but believes this will be good for future Parks and Rec levies. The citizens have the choice and responsibility of whether they want to go to the pool or not.
Councilmember Lynne Snider said thank you for listening, she will be able to help in the evenings with whatever is needed.

Citizens Comments: None

Announcements: None

Adjournment:

Mayor Dan Harmon asked for a **Motion** to adjourn. A **Motion** was made by Councilmember Lynne Snider and was seconded by Council President Josh Hultgren. A roll call vote was taken with all members voting aye.

Lynne Snider - aye
Josh Hultgren - aye
Daria Carr - aye
Erica O'Neill - aye
Sterling Krout - aye
Gina Kaetzel - aye
Motion passed 6-0

Meeting concluded at 6:59 p.m.


Mayor Dan Harmon


Stephanie Reyher, Council Clerk