### **Council Members:**

Other Village Officials:

Lynne Snider
Erica O'Neill
Sterling Krout
Kim Billman
Jill Anderson
Gina Kaetzel

Mayor Dan Harmon Traci Sturgill, Village Administrator Dan Williams, Chief of Police Kelly Beem, Interim Fiscal Officer

**Guests Present:** Tasia Savage

### Call to Order/ Pledge of Allegiance:

Mayor Dan Harmon called the Village of Thornville Regular Council Meeting to order on July 25, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. by saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

### Roll Call:

Roll Call was taken with Council member Erica O'Neill, Council member Kim Billman, Council member Jill Anderson, Council member Lynne Snider, Council President Gina Kaetzel and Council member Sterling Krout present.

### Motion to Amend the Business Agenda for the Regular Council Meeting on July 25, 2022:

Mayor Dan Harmon requested a **motion** to amend the Business Agenda for the Regular Council Meeting on July 25, 2022 to add Ordinance #22-09 to new business. A **motion** was made by Council President Gina Kaetzel and was seconded by Council member Erica O'Neill. A roll call vote was taken with all Council members voting aye.

### **Roll Call**

Sterling Krout – aye Erica O'Neill- aye Lynne Snider- aye Gina Kaetzel- aye Kim Billman- aye Jill Anderson- aye **Motion passed 6-0** 

### Motion to approve the amended Business Agenda for the Regular Council Meeting on July 25, 2022:

Mayor Dan Harmon requested a **motion** to approve the amended business agenda for the Regular Council meeting July 25, 2022. A **Motion** was made by Council member Kim Billman and was seconded by Council member Jill Anderson. A roll call vote was taken with all Council members voting aye.

### **Roll Call**

Jill Anderson- aye Sterling Krout- aye Lynne Snider- aye Kim Billman- aye Gina Kaetzel- aye

Erica O'Neill- aye **Motion passed 6-0** 

Motion to Approve the Minutes from the Regular Council meeting on June 27, 2022: Mayor Dan Harmon requested a motion to approve the minutes from the Regular Council meeting minutes June 27, 2022. A Motion was made by Council member Jill Anderson and was seconded by Council member Erica O'Neill. A roll call vote was taken with all Council members voting aye.

### **Roll Call**

Erica O'Neill- aye Jill Anderson- aye Lynne Snider- aye Sterling Krout- aye Kim Billman- aye Gina Kaetzel- aye **Motion passed 6-0** 

Police Report: Chief Williams presented his monthly police report and went over it with council. He also added he spent 3 days working with Jason on building the bleachers at the park. He had a person from mayor's court required to work 30 hours of community service. We had her power wash and paint the shelter house and it looks great. She will also be washing the office windows. Chief Williams also advised council of a felony traffic stop Auxiliary Officer Westenbarger made which resulted in felony drug charges and a large amount of cash was confiscated. He is awaiting the drug test results from BCI to continue with the case. The Dodge Charger required \$1300 in mechanical repair and he is still waiting to hear from Ford on the timeline of ordering the new cruiser. Village Administrator Traci Sturgill again thanked Chief Williams for all his help on building the bleachers along with Council member Erica O'Neill.

### Mayor's Report for June 2022:

Mayor Dan Harmon presented the Mayors Report for June 2022.

Mayor Harmon advised he needs a **motion** to receive the Mayor's Court report to council for June 2022. **Motion** made by Council member Kim Billman and seconded by Council member Jill Anderson. A roll call vote was taken with all Council members voting aye.

Roll Call
Gina Kaetzel
Jill Anderson
Kim Billman
Lynne Snider
Sterling Krout
Erica O'Neill
Motion passed 6-0

### Monthly Water Report to Perry County Commissioners for June 2022:

Mayor Harmon advised he needed a **motion** to receive the monthly water report to the Perry County Commissioners for June 2022. **Motion** made by Council member Kim Billman and was seconded by Council member Jill Anderson. A roll call vote was taken with all Council members voting aye.

Roll Call
Sterling Krout- aye
Gina Kaetzel- aye
Jill Anderson- aye
Kim Billman- aye
Erica O'Neill- aye
Lynne Snider- aye
Motion passed 6-0

### Monthly Water Report to Council for June 2022:

Mayor Harmon advised he needs a motion to receive the monthly water report to Council for June 2022. **Motion** made by Council member Sterling Krout and was seconded by Council member Jill Anderson. A roll call vote was taken with all council members voting aye.

Roll Call
Lynne Snider
Erica O'Neill
Kim Billman
Sterling Krout
Jill Anderson
Gina Kaetzel
Motion passed 6-0

Presentation of the Bills-Village Administrator Traci Sturgill presented the accounts payable report and added if anyone has any questions she can answer, please let her know.

Mayor Harmon advised if there were no questions on the bills, he would need a **motion to** pay the bills. Council member Sterling Krout made a **motion** to pay the bills and was seconded by Council member Kim Billman. A roll call vote was taken with all Council members voting aye.

Roll Call
Gina Kaetzel- aye
Kim Billman- aye
Jill Anderson- aye
Sterling Krout- aye
Erica O'Neill- aye
Lynne Snider- aye
Motion passed 6-0

Mayor Harmon asked for a **motion** to receive the bank reconciliation for May 2022. **Motion** made by Council member Jill Anderson and was seconded by Council member Kim Billman. A roll call vote was taken with all Council members voting aye.

Roll Call
Sterling Krout- aye
Gina Kaetzel- aye
Jill Anderson- aye
Lynne Snider- aye
Kim Billman- aye
Erica O'Neill- aye
Motion passed 6-0

Village Administrator Traci Sturgill updated Council on the snow blade for the new street maintenance truck when it was ordered. At this time there is no eta on when we can even place the orders for the new trucks. The street and water department employees met and discussed this and asked if they could order a blade for the new skid steer which will work for multiple areas and departments and save us approximately \$3000 from what we appropriated for going on the new truck. This will help plow tight alleys and sidewalks also.

Council President Gina Kaetzel made a **motion** to order the new snow blade for the skid steer which is already appropriated for. **Motion** seconded by Council member Sterling Krout. A roll call vote was taken with all Council members voting aye.

Roll Call
Erica O'Neill- aye
Jill Anderson- aye
Kim Billman- aye
Lynne Snider- aye
Sterling Krout- aye
Gina Kaetzel-aye
Motion passed 6-0

Village Administrator Traci Sturgill discussed the village surveys she mailed out. She has received many great comments and feedback from the community for doing this. On the survey choice of either repairing or replacing the swimming pool vs a splashpad, 90% would like the pool replaced or repaired. The next highest number of requests are for the walking trail at the park, walking trail to Thornport. downtown renovations, restaurants, shopping and a dog park. She expects a lot more surveys to come in. Traci then introduced Tasia Savage, a Village resident who is in attendance tonight. She is interested in cleaning the headstones at the elementary school cemetery. She would also like to get the headstones placed in their correct burial plots. She is a member of the Thornville Lions Club who are also interested in helping do this and to help fund this. She has experience with doing this in other local cemeteries. She does need assistance finding maps of what headstone belongs where. She is here tonight to see if anyone knows who actually owns it or if the village could give her permission to do this or possibly direct her on where to start researching. Traci advised we maintain it with mowing and weeding. Councilmember Lynne Snider advised she feels the township owns it but they refused to care for it. She said we had a very small cemetery fund used to mow it. Traci thought she saw where Melissa closed that fund in the past year or so. Council member Sterling Krout said his wife and family also love to do this and would be interested in helping out also. He knows his wife would love too. Tasia said they date back as far as the 1800's. Chief Williams has also been restoring the cemetery in Glenford with a group of volunteers. Mayor Harmon feels she should talk to the Thorn Township Trustees since it is adjacent to their property. They may have more information on it. He also suggested she put a small sign in the cemetery for anyone that visits it that may want to contact her with information. The Lions Club are interested in putting up a fence and name of the cemetery. Dale Brussee advised Tasia (prior to the meeting tonight) that the township refuses to claim it and told her it would be pointless to go talk to them about it. Lynne said that is why we are still taking care of it, because nobody else will. Fiscal Officer Kelly Beem suggested she check with the Perry County Recorder's office also and see who it is deeded too and also the local funeral home. Lynne also suggested she speak with Gene Goldsberry for more information. Council members thanked Tasia for her interest in

repairing the cemetery. Traci advised she can contact the trustees and see what she can find out from them.

Village Administrator Traci Sturgill discussed the Village bank accounts currently being in 2 different banks. We would like to get all the remaining accounts moved to Peoples. Melissa was keeping our Park checking account open to use the remainder of the checks she had on hand when PNC closed. We are getting close to needing to reorder so now is the time to do that with Peoples bank. This will be the checking account, sweep account and credit cards. She wants council's approval to have Interim Fiscal Officer Kelly Beem and herself make these changes.

Mayor Harmon asked for a **motion** to order Village Administrator Traci Sturgill to have all the remaining accounts and items moved from PNC Bank to Peoples Bank. **Motion** made by Council member Sterling Krout and was seconded by Council member Kim Billman. A roll call vote was taken will all Council members voting aye.

Roll Call
Jill Anderson- aye
Lynne Snider- aye
Erica O'Neill- aye
Sterling Krout- aye
Gina Kaetzel- aye
Kim Billman- aye
Motion passed 6-0

Village Administrator Traci Sturgill advised we will be having a free swim day at the pool on our last swim day, August 13<sup>th</sup>.

Traci also wanted to give an update on the grant that Judge Cooperrider and Somerset Mayor Johnson came to council and discussed. We have just recently learned that these grant funds will most likely not be available to those communities that are chosen, for 2 years. This first round of funding is for surveying and engineering of projects. This news definitely changes the plan of applying for the funds for the pool which will need to be completed by next season opening. She would still like to apply for some other projects for the village. Possibly a nice gateway sign to the village at each corporation limit, downtown street scapes like Somerset has with the lamp posts around downtown, dog park, walking path at the park.

**Fiscal Officer's Report-** Interim Fiscal Officer Kelly Beem advised her first 2 months have a been a little stressful but with Traci's assistance all is going well. Most of it has been due to gaining access to all the bank accounts and reporting accounts. The month of May is reconciled and June will be completed shortly. Traci also advised she started right when the pool opened up with the credit card usage which has always been more detailed to reconcile. Kelly advised council all the accounts are in good shape. She sees no concerns with any funds.

### **Committee Reports for June 2022:**

Village Administrator Traci Sturgill discussed the committee agendas for August. We didn't have any new business for July and unless council members have any new business for August committee meetings, she doesn't have any old business. If council would like to just have a Special Finance Committee later in August to review the 2023 appropriations ordinance, we can just do that. Mayor Harmon and a couple other council members will be absent on the committee date also. It was

decided to call a special finance meeting later in August once appropriations were ready to discuss with the finance committee.

Parks & Recreation Committee: No meeting held Public Facilities Committee: No meeting held Personnel Committee- No meeting held Finance Committee: No meeting held Rules Committee: No meeting held

### **Unfinished Business:**

Village Administrator Traci Sturgill discussed the pool updates. ADR Engineers met her at the pool last week to look it over and see what they feel is going on with it structurally. They were very knowledgeable and have seen this type of issue before. Freeze Heave is happening behind all the walls. They are getting wet from the erosion, then freezing in the winter. The water is drained from the pool in the winter so when the water freezes behind the walls in the winter, all the walls are pushing inward and cracking the floor along with the sides starting to cave in. In the summer these walls are being held up by the water in the pool. They do feel it is safe to get through the remainder couple weeks we are open but something will have to be done prior to opening for next season. Traci asked them for a quote to be our engineer and be in contact with contractors with us in regards to what all needs to be done as to their professional opinions. They quoted her \$2500 to do this. ADR will then meet with our contractors, work with us on the best route of renovation. they did also suggest we get a quote on a completely new pool so we can compare the costs of rehabbing this one. They have seen with other projects, sometimes a new pool is cheaper than renovation. All the concrete decking is also sinking which is causing all the water laying in several spots around the deck. Village Administrator Traci Sturgill advised she would like approval from council to hire ADR Engineers for \$2500 for the pool engineers. **Motion** was made by Council member Lynne Snider and seconded by Council member Erica O'Neill. A roll call vote was taken with all Council members voting aye.

Roll Call
Jill Anderson- aye
Kim Billman- aye
Erica O'Neill- aye
Lynne Snider- aye
Gina Kaetzel- aye
Sterling Krout- aye
Motion passed 6-0

Village Administrator Traci Sturgill added she did have Brown Construction quote us on the repair of the pool, replacing the floor, walls, kiddie pool with a small splash pad and all concrete decking, when we were planning on applying for the grant funds for the pool. Butch said he can pour 8" of concrete on top of what is already there (saving approximately \$50,000 to remove it). He would then put new walls in, remove the gutter system and install 10 big mouth skimmers. His quote is right under \$400,000. Traci advised she discussed this idea with ADR when they were here. The only thing they want to do is a little research on if any type of barrier is needed between the existing concrete and the new concrete. They will also meet with Brown Construction to go over all his project plans. ADR will be back out once we have the pool drained to do some additional research at the site.

Traci also passed around the building site plan that the owner of the old restaurant would like to do in the near future. He has also been attending all the economic development meetings and is being very involved. He has several other buildings in other cities also.

Discussion held on Resolution #22-04. Council President Gina Kaetzel asked Village Administrator Traci Sturgill if she could advise on the funds lost on the Letherman investment since January 1, 2022 to the current date. Traci advised this amount is a loss of \$32,767 for 2022. The current balance today is \$159,000. She also advised she has been researching and speaking with JP Morgan and they advised it has been in investments since the year 2001. They weren't able to give me the beginning investment amount because it is in archived records and I have to request those statements along with a check for \$25. Mayor Harmon feels if we don't need the money, the best thing to do is leave it where it's at. He strongly feels we shouldn't be pulling the funds while we are in a low market. Council member Kim Billman has also been advised the market is close to the lowest it's going to go this year, yes it will fluctuate, but investments will come back up. Mayor Harmon has looked at historic recessions that we have had and he strongly feels we leave the investment where it is until we absolutely need it for an emergency. He does feel we need to find out everything we can about the investment since we have never been given that information. Traci agrees and is currently working on getting all that. She passed around a JP Morgan fund statement showing all the market funds it is currently invested in. She did advise she has it set up to receive the monthly statements now so we can keep a close eye on it.

Interim Fiscal Officer Kelly Beem advised council she has been looking into the Letherman funds with Village Administrator Traci Sturgill and she has noticed when going back through 2021 and 2022 in the UAN accounting books, the previous fiscal officer was not reporting the gains and losses of the Letherman fund. She did make a call to Ken Phillips who performed the Village's latest audit. He also does her audits in Somerset as well. She advised she asked him about this and he advised yes, all of that needs reported so she needs to go back at least as far as she can and record all of this. Council member Lynne Snider asked why it wasn't caught in the audit? Kelly said she did ask him this and he advised he was hired to come in and do a one-day audit where they just come in, summarize it, pull random detail and look over. He didn't catch it on this latest audit. Traci advised she will be getting the statements now and Kelly will have to go back in and record the correct numbers. Kelly advised she is going to need to check with the local government in Columbus to see exactly how to go back and do this because there is going to be fund balance adjustments because it's going to affect the fund balances of Letherman at year end. Village Administrator Traci Sturgill advised our last full audit was 2 years ago. Kelly doesn't understand why we didn't have a full audit like she does every 2 years. The prior fiscal officer was just putting in the same account balance each month. All she can do now is go back to the 1st quarter of this year once she speaks with Columbus. Traci advised she will get the \$25 fee paid to get the historic statements as soon as possible.

Council member Kim Billman asked what everyone's thoughts were on the Letherman funds. Council President Gina Kaetzel doesn't like watching the loss but feels much better now knowing that we can pull these funds for an emergency, if needed, and we know the process to follow to do it. She does feel it should be on record for future council, (if this council doesn't end up needing it) that they can withdraw these funds for use on the items the attorney has acknowledged it can be used for. Council member Sterling Krout asked all of council members thoughts. Council President Gina Kaetzel felt we should use it for our swimming pool repairs/upgrade, if needed and Council member Kim Billman agreed. Council member Erica O'Neill is still concerned about it losing more money. Council member

Lynne Snider agreed. Council member Jill Anderson added her investor advised her to pull nothing out of an investment right now. Village Administrator Traci Sturgill feels we should leave it invested until we need it. She has the procedure and paperwork to pull it when we need too and it is a very simple procedure. Mayor Harmon agrees.

Council member Sterling Krout introduced his idea of another option for using the funds. He said the seller acts as the bank and says you can buy this property and we will lend you the money but the owner still has ownership of the property deed, acts as the bank and is getting an income, a percentage of that. He just is thinking maybe we can do this? Can the Village be a lender if someone has an idea to open up a business but doesn't have the cash to do so. He likes the idea of us having that type of leverage. Village Administrator Traci Sturgill advised she has no idea if a Village can legally do this type thing and asked Interim Fiscal Officer Kelly Beem if she has any knowledge of this. Kelly advised if it is cost sharing the Village of Somerset has done that. They have had an architect come in and design outdoor seating for the local restaurants and the Village of Somerset is paying 75% of their project but the funds are coming from the ARPA funds which is an entirely different situation. Mayor Harmon and Village Administrator Traci Sturgill are doubtful on the lending of Village funds and acting as a bank. Kelly advised of the Village of New Lexington allowing citizens to have their sidewalks replaced and pay back the money for it on their monthly water bills but that is all she has heard of. This also came with stipulations. Council agreed it would all be a lot of bookkeeping. Mayor Harmon would like to see what we are able to do in terms of improvement in street lighting, the sidewalk, improve back alleys for deliveries. Items that are our responsibility that the Village would do anyway to help bring new business to the Village. We would just have to look at them on a case-by-case basis.

RESOLUTION #22-04 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING VILLAGE FISCAL OFFICER TO WITHDRAW LETHERMAN INVESTMENT FUNDS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY **TABLED** 

Council President Gina Kaetzel made a **motion** to table Resolution #22-04 until the August council meeting. **Motion** seconded by Council member Jill Anderson. A roll call vote was taken with all Council members voting aye.

Roll Call
Kim Billman- aye
Jill Anderson-aye
Erica O'Neill- aye
Sterling Krout- aye
Lynne Snider- aye
Gina Kaetzel- aye
Motion passed 6-0

Council member Erica O'Neill was excused to leave early from the meeting.

ORDINANCE #22-09 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE #21-14, THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE, THEREFORE REVISING SUMS FOR OPERATING EXPENSES AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

1<sup>ST</sup> Reading

Discussion held: Village Administrator Traci Sturgill updated council in regards to the funds on the ordinance. This is all the money we have received in, that need

appropriated to their correct fund. It consists of the final payment of our ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act), the TAC Committee grant, Opioid litigation settlement and Police department donation. We do need to order a new copier. There are no longer parts available for the one we currently are using which we have had since we purchased in 2013. We are now getting black smudge lines across the copies that is getting worse. We did remove the stapler from this new one because we never use that function here in the office. This cut a lot off of the cost of the new one. The cost of purchasing the new printer/copier/fax is \$8000 and is included on this ordinance. Council President Gina Kaeztel asked what Anna uses to print the water bills. Traci advised she has a separate small printer in her office just for the water bill postcards. Mayor Harmon feels we need to look at having an electronic billing system that emails the monthly billings along with a paper billing and do away with the postcards. He feels we should be entirely electronic by now. Village Administrator Traci Sturgill advised she will check into the water billing system software that surrounding villages use. If we are going to add radio read meters this is a good time to do this. Direct deposit for payroll should also be available. Kelly advised Somerset does email water bills with their billing software.

Mayor Harmon wanted to express his concern on passing ordinances as an emergency again for the record. He doesn't like to do this but does understand that sometimes we have no choice and we don't have to do it very often.

Mayor Harmon asked for a **motion** to adopt Ordinance #22-09 and pass it as an emergency.

Council President Gina Kaetzel made a **motion** to suspend the three-reading rule for Ordinance #22-09 and declare as an emergency. **Motion** seconded by council member Sterling Krout. A roll call vote was taken with all Council members voting aye.

Roll Call
Jill Anderson- aye
Lynne Snider- aye
Kim Billman- aye
Gina Kaetzel- aye
Sterling Krout- aye
Motion passed 5-0

Council President Gina Kaetzel made a **motion** to adopt Ordinance #22-09 and pass it as an emergency. **Motion** seconded by Council member Jill Anderson. A roll call vote was taken with all Council members voting aye.

Roll Call
Kim Billman- aye
Gina Kaetzel- aye
Sterling Krout- aye
Lynne Snider- aye
Jill Anderson- aye
Motion passed 5-0

### **Comments and Announcements:**

Council member Lynne Snider advised she had a couple residents wonder why the gaga pit grass is taller than the pit, which she said is pretty tall. Council member Sterling Krout advised he has only seen it sitting where dirt is and not grass. Traci asked if maybe it had been moved out from its normal spot? It isn't ever used because they had replaced 4-5 balls within a short period of time so they quit

replacing them. All they were doing was stealing the balls from it. Lynne said they should have to bring their own ball if they want to use it. Traci will check on it with Jason tomorrow morning.

Lynne also added the day this citizen went to play, which we know it has rained a lot, the playground mulch was actually flooded. Sterling responded that it does turn to soup in there when we get a lot of rain. Traci advised a new drain was put in this summer but with these heavy rains, it is going to lay there. Council agreed. Traci will also have Jason see if it is clogged with mulch. Lynne added they said they couldn't play there so they went to the school house.

Council member Lynne Snider had questions about the condemned building behind the pizza shop. She advised it is leaning. Mayor Harmon and Village Administrator Traci Sturgill advised yes, it has been leaning for a year of which it has been condemned by the Mid Ohio East Commercial Zoning department as we discuss in zoning, council and committee meetings. She reminded Lynne of the demo grant the Village applied for and was approved for but we have to follow the government grant procedures which does take some time. It has been moving through the steps for months. The commissioners just got the paperwork to sign off on and hopefully in the next month it will be able to be taken down. Lynne asked if the pizza shop owner owns it? Traci advised no, James O'Connor's but it isn't a danger to the community according to Mid East zoning. They will not block it off. Chief Williams and I have tried. Lynne said it is a danger. She stood by it and pieces are coming off. Traci advised she has called them back up here a couple times and they are adamant it will not fall. They also had an engineer look at it. We also tried involving the fire department.

Council member Lynne Snider also has concerns about the Schramm's empty lot on her street (Maple) and Bryan Orr Drive. She asked if Traci has checked out that building. Traci advised yes. She was actually past it today and it just looks like an old garage. Council member Sterling Krout added yes, that is what it is and is behind his garage. Lynne advised that was going to fall down also. Traci advised she doesn't have any authority to do anything about these type things. There is no village ordinance allowing the zoning inspector or administrator to address these types of issues. She reminded her of all the discussions we have had in zoning and council in regards to a blight ordinance and it was voted against pursuing multiple times. Mayor Harmon added it has been talked about for many years and decided against. Lynne then also said she guessed she couldn't talk about the property on the horseshoe either? Traci asked where this was? Lynne advised the Black residence. Traci stated only the weed and grass issues which she does try to keep under control but they claim it is flowers and vines growing. It was actually mowed today where possible. Lynne said you can barely see the house. Lynne said these are the properties around town that really need addressed. Traci advised she does everything to the point she is legally permitted to do, according to the village ordinances and resolutions.

Citizen Comments: None

Mayor Harmon asked for a **motion** to adjourn the meeting. **Motion** made by Council member Sterling Krout and was seconded by Council member Jill Anderson. A roll call vote was taken with all councilmembers voting aye.

Roll Call Gina Kaetzel- aye Lynne Snider- aye Jill Anderson- aye Kim Billman- aye

Sterling Krout- aye

**Motion passed 5-0** 

Adjourned at 8:20 pm

Mayor Dan Harmon

Traci Sturgill, Council Clerk