

Village of Thornville Council Minutes
1 South Main Street
Thornville, OH
December 16th, 2024

Council Members:

Sterling Krout
Lynne Snider
Tasia Savage
Dale Brussee

Other Village Officials:

Amanda Lackey – Mayor
Melissa Brofford – Village Adminstr.
Abby Tolliver – Clerk of Council
Taylor Bennett – Fiscal Officer

Guests:

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance:

Mayor Lackey called the Village of Thornville Council Meeting to Order at 7:00PM by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call:

Roll Call was taken with Council Member Tasia Savage, Council Member Dale Brussee, Council Member Lynne Snider, and Council President Sterling Krout all present.

Tasia Savage – aye
Dale Brussee – aye
Lynne Snider – aye
Sterling Krout – aye

Excuses:

Mayor Lackey asked for a motion to excuse Council Members Tony Taylor and Ashley Moore from the meeting, both of whom had announced their absence prior to the meeting. Council President Sterling Krout made the motion and was seconded by Council Member Dale Brussee. A roll call vote was taken, with all members voting aye.

Roll Call:

Lynne Snider – aye
Dale Brussee – aye
Tasia Savage – aye
Sterling Krout - aye

Motion Passed 4-0

Review/Approval of Business Agenda for December 16th, 2024:

Mayor Lackey asked for a motion to approve the business agenda for December 16th, 2024. Council President Sterling Krout made the motion, and was seconded by Council Member Tasia Savage. A roll call vote was taken with all members voting aye.

Roll Call:

Sterling Krout – aye
Lynne Snider – aye
Dale Brussee – aye
Tasia Savage – aye

Motion Passed 4-0

Review/Approval of Regular Council Minutes from November 25th, 2024:

Mayor Lackey asked for a motion to approve the Regular Council Minutes from November 25th, 2024 after review. Council President Sterling Krout made the motion, and was seconded by Council Member Lynne Snider. A roll call vote was taken, with all members voting aye.

Roll Call:

Tasia Savage – aye
Lynne Snider – aye

Dale Brussee – aye
Sterling Krout – aye

Motion Passed 4-0

Review/Approval of Special Council Minutes from December 5th, 2024:

Mayor Lackey asked for a motion to approve the Special Council Minutes from December 5th, 2024 after review. Council President Sterling Krout made the motion, and was seconded by Council Member Tasia Savage. A roll call vote was taken, with all members voting aye.

Roll Call:

Dale Brussee – aye
Lynne Snider – aye
Tasia Savage – aye
Sterling Krout – aye

Motion Passed 4-0

Police Report:

Mayor Lackey read Chief Vanderbosch's report on his behalf.

In his first month, Chief Vanderbosch attended the County Chiefs' Association Meeting, has begun building relationship with local agencies like ATF & FBI, and has met with the elementary school & school district to get proper access to the school in case of an emergency.

Chief Vanderbosch is working on properly securing the department's evidence room and filing systems, and is looking at quotes for new radios, new tasers, and new policy & procedure implementation.

Chief Vanderbosch is also working with the Mayor's Court Clerk to get her fingerprinted and input in the state system. Council President questioned when Chief Vanderbosch is on duty.

Mayor Lackey explained he still works full time with Ohio Health, but is here for day shift and plans to work the crosswalks on school days.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Lackey was asked to speak at the local Wreaths Across America Event at the Lutheran Cemetery in town, and was thankful to be involved.

Chief Vanderbosch spoke with Chief Weekly, and will be parking the cruisers when off-duty at the Fire Department and Township Buildings for better protection.

Mayor Lackey asked if Council Meeting Schedules for upcoming calendar years need to be approved by council. Council Member Dale Brussee explained they're usually come up with at the special organizational meeting at the beginning of the year. Mayor Lackey explained she'd like to start hosting two regular council meetings a month, to avoid holding so many last minute special meetings in the future. Council Member Tasia Savage agreed that this schedule would make sense moving forward.

i. Mayors Court Report:

Mayor Lackey dispersed the report to Council, informing them that Mayor's Court Clerk Vickie has agreed to stay in the position. Checks are all written and she is being added to the account.

ii. Monthly Water Report to Council:

Mayor Lackey asked for a motion to approve the Water Report after review. Council President Sterling Krout made the motion, and was seconded by Council Member Tasia Savage. A roll call vote was taken, with all members voting aye.

Roll Call:

Lynne Snider – aye
Dale Brussee – aye
Sterling Krout – aye
Tasia Savage – aye

Motion Passed 4-0

iii. **Monthly Water Report to County Commissioners:**

Mayor Lackey asked for a motion to approve the Water Report after review. Council President Sterling Krout made the motion, and was seconded by Council Member Dale Brussee. A roll call vote was taken with all members voting aye.

Roll Call:

Tasia Savage – aye
Lynne Snider – aye
Dale Brussee – aye
Sterling Krout – aye

Motion Passed 4-0

Administrator's Report:

Administrator Brofford reminded Council the water valve under the traffic light is undergoing work, and water would be shut off at 10PM, water sample will be taken to Dover for testing first thing in the morning, and a concrete truck is coming at 7:30AM to patch the hole. Zemba came to drop water. An RFQ for engineering services regarding the I&I project has been put out to keep up with requirements for the Balderson Grant. Administrator Brofford explained Carl has begun reading meters and is taking great notes for the next transition. Carl & Jason are going out a lot together, and Jason is giving Kelly some relief over the weekend following the overnight work this week.

Dannaher attorney is arguing the responsibility of sidewalk maintenance, told Zets to stand down and the Village will just charge the \$250 to taxes.

Buckeye Lake Regional Commission annual dues are \$400, which Administrator Brofford explained she thinks is worth the cost due to local government coalition benefits, as well as visibility to lake development regarding water/sewer impacts.

i. **Presentation & Payment of Bills:**

Mayor Lackey asked for a motion to approve the payment of Village Bills after review. Council Member Dale Brussee made the motion, and was seconded by Council Member Tasia Savage. A roll call vote was taken, with all members voting aye.

Roll Call:

Tasia Savage – aye
Lynne Snider – aye
Sterling Krout – aye
Dale Brussee – aye

Motion Passed 4-0

Fiscal Officer's Report:

Fiscal Officer Bennett dispersed a report with all recent money movement, including movement of funds for appropriations. Everything is up to date so now is inputting everything in an excel sheet, which formatting has been found to make the process more efficient.

Zoning & Planning Commission Report:

Administrator Brofford informed Council there had been no new permits or violations, and the only issue was the previously discussed Dannaher attorney issues.

Committee Reports:

- i. **Finance Committee:** Committee Chair Sterling Krout informed Council that the Committee discussed the budget, which has already been gone through by Council at the December 5th Special Council Meeting.

New Business:

- i. **RESOLUTION #24-20: ACCEPTING THE AMENDED AMOUNTS & RATES AS DETERMINED BY THE BUDGET COMMISSION AND AUTHORIZING THE NECESSARY TAX LEVIES AND CERTIFYING THEM TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

1st Reading

Administrator Brofford explained that this was amended to not include the Parks & Recreation Levy, which was not passed by residents in November. Mayor Lackey asked for a motion to suspend the three-reading rule and declare Resolution 24-20 an emergency. Council President Sterling Krout made the motion, and was seconded by Council Member Dale Brussee. A roll call vote was taken, with all members voting aye.

Roll Call:

Lynne Snider – aye
Dale Brussee – aye
Sterling Krout – aye
Tasia Savage – aye

Motion Passed 4-0

Mayor Lackey asked for a motion to adopt Resolution 24-20 as an emergency. Council President Sterling Krout made the motion, and was seconded by Council Member Lynne Snider. A roll call vote was taken, with all members voting aye.

Roll Call:

Tasia Savage – aye
Sterling Krout – aye
Dale Brussee – aye
Lynne Snider – aye

Motion Passed 4-0

- ii. **ORDINANCE #24-19: 2025 ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

1st Reading

Administrator Brofford explained that this is just how our budget will be split up and spent, and pointed out that the second to last page shows how everything adds back up. Administrator Brofford pointed out specific items that had been questioned at the last meeting, including Workers' Compensation, Medicare, operating Materials, and Small Tools, and that funds can be moved as needed throughout the year from certain accounts to others.

Mayor Lackey asked for a motion to suspend the three-reading rule and declare Ordinance 24-19 an emergency. Council President Sterling Krout made the motion, and was seconded by Council Member Tasia Savage. A roll call vote was taken, with all members voting aye.

Roll Call:

Lynne Snider – aye
Dale Brussee – aye
Sterling Krout – aye
Tasia Savage – aye

Motion Passed 4-0

Mayor Lackey asked for a motion to adopt Ordinance 24-19 as an emergency. Council President Sterling Krout made the motion, and was seconded by Council Member Tasia Savage. A roll call vote was taken, with all members voting aye.

Roll Call:

Dale Brussee – aye
Sterling Krout – aye
Tasia Savage – aye
Lynne Snider – aye

Motion Passed 4-0

iii. ORDINANCE #24-20: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 2 OF ORDINANCE 24-09 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

1st Reading

Mayor Lackey explained this Ordinance certifies Fiscal Officer Bennett's pay change as previously discussed. Mayor Lackey asked for a motion to suspend the three reading rule and declare Ordinance 24-20 an emergency. Council President Sterling Krout made the motion, and was seconded by Council Member Tasia Savage. A roll call vote was taken, with all members voting aye.

Roll Call:

Lynne Snider – aye
Tasia Savage – aye
Sterling Krout – aye
Dale Brussee – aye

Motion Passed 4-0

Mayor Lackey asked for a motion to adopt Ordinance 24-20 as an emergency. Council President Sterling Krout made the motion, and was seconded by Council Member Tasia Savage. A roll call vote was taken, with all members voting aye.

Roll Call:

Lynne Snider – aye
Sterling Krout – aye
Dale Brussee – aye
Tasia Savage – aye

Motion Passed 4-0

iv. Holiday Decoration Competition Voting:

With 3 nominated houses, 1 vote was cast for a home on Lakeview Drive, and 4 votes were cast for a home on Church Street. Mayor Lackey assured Council she would get a Winning Yard Sign made for the winning home and notify them as soon as possible.

v. Clarification of 11/14/2024 Special Council Meeting Minutes:

Mayor Lackey explained that clarification needs to be made regarding the Special Council Meeting Minutes. Mayor Lackey explained the Special Council Meeting was called for an Executive Session pursuant to ORC 121.22(G)(1) to discuss the employment and/or compensation of a public official. Mayor Lackey explained that the approved Special Council Minutes from 11/14/2024 mention compensation for

wrongful termination. Mayor Lackey explained that the sentiment of wrongful termination was expressed by the former employee and was, unfortunately, reflected by Council. Mayor Lackey explained the Village denies all liability or any other wrongdoing related to the Fiscal Officer and her employment separation. Mayor Lackey explained that the Village did not wrongfully terminate or discharge the former Fiscal Officer.

Comments & Announcements:

Administrator Brofford reminded Council that water rates will be rising on January 1st, 2025, and that residents are already concerned about water rates at their current level. Administrator Brofford explained the best option moving forward is to work with Village Clerk Anna Cox on pulling up usage records and breaking down pricing for customers on an individual basis. Administrator Brofford informed Council our rates will still remain lower than surrounding areas, and that Council Clerk Tolliver would get graphics created to share with customers regarding the rate changes.

Council Member Lynne Snider brought up drainage issues in front of the Lutheran Church. Administrator Brofford explained that timing has not worked out to use the valve machine but the Village is aware and looking at the issue.

Council Member Tasia Savage questioned if an Open House was still in discussion to be held regarding general levies, water rates, and upcoming events. Administrator Brofford suggested February, and deciding on a date at the beginning of the year. Administrator Brofford suggested not holding it the same night as the Organizational Meeting, but before the Regularly Scheduled Council Meeting.

Adjournment:

Mayor Lackey asked for a motion to adjourn at 7:47PM. Council Member Lynne Snider made the motion, and was seconded by Council President Sterling Krout. A roll call vote was taken, with all members voting aye.

Roll Call:

Tasia Savage – aye
Lynne Snider – aye
Sterling Krout – aye
Dale Brussee – aye

Motion Passed 4-0



Amanda Lackey, Mayor



Abby Tolliver, Clerk of Council