

**Village of Thornville Special Council Minutes**  
**Jake Shaner Memorial Park**  
**Thornville, Ohio**  
**July 12, 2026**

**Council Members:**

Aaron Hoppel  
Lynne Snider  
Mackenzie Brune  
Craig Cooperrider  
Dale Brussee  
Tasia Savage

**Other Village Officials:**

Amanda Lackey- Mayor  
Eric Wilkins- Village Administrator  
Tonya Thurston- Clerk Of Council

**Guests:** Carol Shaffer, Peggy Mills, Kim Forsythe, Kendall Brown-Clovis, Jody Staggers, Linda & Marty Savage, Tom Rodgers, Jim O'Bryan, Bryan Yantis, Kyle & Kim Mathews, Scott Parsell, Rebecca Parsell, Ann Cooperrider, Gene & Beth Raab, Terry & Wanda Hupp, Gene & Bonnie Goldsberry, Tom Wilson, M. Wilson

**Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance:**

Mayor Amanda Lackey called the Village of Thornville Council Meeting to order at 6:00pm by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Roll Call:**

Roll call was taken with Council President Dale Brussee, Council Member Craig Cooperrider, Council Member Mackenzie Brune, Council Member Tasia Savage, Council Member Lynne Snider and Council Member Aaron Hoppel all present.

**Roll Call:**

Dale Brussee – aye  
Craig Cooperrider – aye  
Mackenzie Brune – aye  
Tasia Savage – aye  
Lynne Snider – aye  
Aaron Hoppel – aye

**Excused Absences: None**

**Review/Approval of Special Business Agenda for July 12, 2026:**

Mayor Lackey asked for a motion to approve the July 12, 2026 Special Council Business Agenda after review. Council Member Craig Cooperrider made the motion and was seconded by Council Member Mackenzie Brune. A roll call vote was taken, with all members voting aye.

**Roll Call:**

Dale Brussee – aye  
Craig Cooperrider – aye  
Mackenzie Brune – aye  
Tasia Savage – aye  
Lynne Snider – aye  
Aaron Hoppel – aye

**Motion Passed 6-0**

**Discussion on Water Meter Upgrade**

Mayor Lackey addressed the attendees and informed them that the meeting was being held to discuss the potential upgrade of water meters and that council would be leading the meeting. She also stated that questions allowed and asked that anyone who speaks should state their name for the record. She asked Council Member Craig Cooperrider to take the lead.

Council Member Cooperrider thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He explained that there are 3 different meters in use within the village and that the majority of the meters are 30+ years old. He also explained how this becomes an issue for the water department when repairs are needed. Council Member Cooperrider explained that there were a couple different water meter models that were being reviewed- one that transmits the reading directly to the water clerk's computer, one that is read with a wand and one that is read by driving by the residence. He cited a recent experience where he had a water leak

underground that wasn't caught right away and his home used 10,000 gallons of water. He noted that with the new system, the clerk would be immediately notified. Council Member Cooperrider said that he had lived in Millersport when they completed their meter upgrade and it was much more efficient as the bills were always correct and residents were notified when there was a leak. He informed attendees that this would continue to be discussed and welcomed everyone to attend the meetings. Council Member Aaron Hoppel said with the aging infrastructure, the council wants to get ahead of this before the system starts failing and asked if anyone had any thoughts.

-Resident Kim Forsythe asked if everyone's meters would have to be changed and Council Member Cooperrider confirmed this would apply to everyone's meter.

-Resident Gene Goldsberry asked who would be paying for it? Council Member Cooperrider answered that we don't have pricing yet, so we don't know what it costs. He also informed the residents that there are all kinds of grants available that could be applied for to help fund it. And there are some other funding sources, but until the council knows the actual cost, that question can't be answered. Mayor Lackey said that there may be some ARC funding that she will have the fiscal officer look into.

-Resident Tom Rodgers stated that he works in the village of Hebron and that they use a system like this. Mr. Rodgers said that they had a leak in their building and that the water clerk called him right away to notify them. He believes the system to be beneficial to the village.

-Council President Dale Brussee explained that with 485 households and meters slowly going bad, it is pulling the water guys away from the plant and creating extra work for them and the clerk.

-Resident Carol Shaffer compared the new meters to the ones that AEP uses that report the usage back to the AEP offices without the need of someone to read the meter.

-Resident Linda Savage asked about the shelf life of the meters and was told that they last approximately 30 years. The battery life was explained as well as what would happen if the battery died. The cost of battery replacement was discussed as well as who would be responsible for maintenance.

-The Council asked Water Operator Bryan Yantis how many had been replaced in the 6 months that he had been here and he answered that at least 6 meters had been replaced. He also noted that every month there are at least 2 meters that aren't reading correctly and repairs must be made.

-The residents voiced their concerns about the job being contracted out and strangers being in their homes. The Council assured residents that the company chosen would have the responsibility and liability in regards to installation and any issues that would arise.

-A resident asked if this upgrade was happening to eliminate the meter reading position. Council member Cooperrider stated that The primary reason would be efficiency with billing and water usage and to upgrade.

-Resident Linda Savage asked if your home had to have internet for this new meter to function properly and council members Hoppel and Cooperrider explained how the meters transmit. They also stated that the data would be encrypted so that information would be safe.

-A resident asked for the council to introduce themselves as he didn't recognize all the faces. Council obliged.

Resident Kyle Mathews asked about the cost of the meters, who absorbs that cost and if the meters can be installed by the homeowner. Council Member Cooperrider stated again that the council cannot provide cost of the meter at this time. He stated that the council's goal is to have this project paid for by grants or other funding. Council Member Cooperrider also said that the homeowners cannot install this meter as it would VOID the warranty.

-Council member Hoppel asked Water Operator Bryan Yantis how long it takes to read the meters in use right now- Mr. Yantis said it takes about 3.5 days. Council Member Hoppel pointed out that the upgrade would free Mr. Yantis up to handle issues at the plant.

-Kendall Brown-Clovis asked if funding isn't available, will residents be able to come back and weigh in on the upgrade. Council Member Cooperrider and Council President Brussee assured her that residents can come to any and all meetings and that there is a time available for discussion during those meetings.

-Residents inquired about a timeline for this upgrade. Council President Brussee said that the council would like to aim for the end of the year but with applications and processes that go along with applying for funding, no one can be sure. He said that he would like to think that by the end of the year we will be moving forward.

-The Council room capacity was mentioned and would there be room for folks to attend future meetings. Mayor Lackey stated that meetings could be held at the park as long as it was nice. Live Streaming was mentioned and Mayor Lackey said the village does not have the equipment to do that but maybe one of the churches would be available.

-The Grant process was discussed and Council Member Brune said the timeline really depends on the grant.

-A resident asked if the grants aren't a possibility, if the council would consider assessing each household for affordability. The council stated that they couldn't exclude it from their thinking but that would be decided at the time.

-The current meter and how the new meter would hook up with existing plumbing was discussed.

**Adjournment:**

Mayor Lackey for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:44pm. Council Member Craig Cooperrider made the motion and was seconded by Council Member Lynne Snider. A roll call vote was taken with all members voting aye.

**Roll Call:**

Dale Brussee - aye  
Craig Cooperrider - aye  
Mackenzie Brune - aye  
Tasia Savage - aye  
Lynne Snider - aye  
Aaron Hoppel - aye

**Motion Passed 6-0**

Amanda Lackey, Mayor



Tonya Thurston, Clerk of Council