

**Village of Thornville Council Minutes
1 South Main Street
Thornville, Ohio
July 20, 2026**

Council Members:

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

Other Village Officials:

Amanda Lackey- Mayor
Eric Wilkins- Village Administrator
Tonya Thurston - Clerk Of Council
Sam Brown- Streets & Maintenance

Guests: None

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance:

Mayor Lackey called the meeting to order at 7:00pm by reciting the pledge of allegiance.

Roll Call:

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

Excused Absences: None

Amendment of Regular Council Agenda for July 20, 2026

Mayor Lackey asked for a motion to amend the Regular Council Agenda for July 20, 2026 in order to add the review/approval of Special Council Minutes from July 12, 2026. Council Member Craig Cooperrider made the motion and was seconded by Council President Dale Brussee. A Roll call vote was taken with all members voting aye.

Roll Call:

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

Motion Passed 6-0

Review/Approval of Amended Council Agenda for July 20, 2026

Mayor Lackey asked for a motion to approve the amended agenda for July 20, 2026 after review. Council President 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:

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

Motion Passed 6-0

Review/Approval of Special Council Minutes for June 25, 2026:

Mayor Lackey asked for a motion to approve the Regular Council Minutes from June 25, 2026 after review. Council Member Craig Cooperrider made the motion to approve minutes and was seconded by Council Member Aaron Hoppel. A roll call vote was taken with all members voting aye.

Roll Call:

Mackenzie Brune - aye

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

Motion Passed 6-0

Review/Approval of Regular Council Minutes for July 6, 2026:

Mayor Lackey asked for a motion to approve the Regular Council Minutes from July 6, 2026 after review. Council Member Aaron Hoppel made the motion and was seconded by Council President Dale Brussee. A roll call vote was taken, with all members voting aye.

Roll Call:

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

Motion Passed 6-0

Review/Approval of Regular Council Minutes for July 12, 2026:

Mayor Lackey asked for a motion to approve the Regular Council Minutes from July 12, 2026 after review. Council Member Aaron Hoppel made the motion and was seconded by Council Member Craig Cooperrider. A roll call vote was taken, with all members voting aye.

Roll Call:

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

Motion Passed 6-0

Guest:

a. Christy Palmer- Grant Writing

Mayor Lackey introduced Ms. Palmer to the council. Ms. Palmer asked the council what their anticipated goals were when attempting to obtain grant money. Mayor Lackey stated that the village was in need of grants for parks and recreation as well as capital improvements and infrastructure. Council President Brussee asked what is most requested by villages and is there a lot of competition for what they are requesting. Ms. Palmer explained that there are a lot of grants out there but that the problem is finding grant makers and matching the village goals with the grant makers. Council President Brussee stated that the village income is too high and requires any grants to be participatory. Mayor Lackey stated that she and the council are interested in learning more about the process of finding grants and writing for them. Ms. Palmer said if the village is looking at a grant by grant basis, a grant consulting firm could help with that. Council Member Brune stated that she had written for grants from the united way and Ms. Palmer said that Council member Brune could be a huge help as she (Ms. Palmer) had not written for grants in some time. Ms. Palmer said that the village should be looking for someone to build a grant management program and gave examples of what that would look like as well as potential cost. Ms. Palmer outlined some of the things that grant makers are looking for and told the council that they need a grant manager. Ms. Palmer stated that the Buckeye Lake Regional Council is somebody that you really should be hooking up with because they can go for joint grant projects and include the village. She emphasized that relationships must be formed and maintained with funders. She reiterated that there is a lot of funding out there and that you have to accept rejections and learn from them. Ms. Palmer noted that she has a legal background and offered to help the police department with organizing files/records. She then asked if the village had community support and or letters of support from civic leaders and Mayor Lackey confirmed. Ms. Palmer finished by saying that if she can help the village in any way, she will. Mayor Lackey thanked her for attending.

Public Hearings: None

Police Report:

Chief Palmer started by thanking the council for the purchase of the new police cruiser. He informed the council that the cruiser now has insurance coverage and that he is obtaining quotes for cost of final outfitting of the vehicle. Chief Palmer stated that new officer Brianna Miller would start working Tuesday. He then stated that he would like to revisit the E-Bike issue and discussed policy and procedure as well as education, fines and impounding of bikes. The Council joined him in the discussion and gave insight and opinions.

Mayors Report:

Mayor Lackey stated that the Buckeye Hills Regional Council reached out to see if they could be of help to the village and also explain what they do. The meeting is scheduled for August 3rd. Mayor Lackey explained that they are a grant commission board. She invited the Parks and Recreation committee to attend. She asked that the council send her any projects that they would like to see completed within the village and she will bring them to Buckeye Hills.

Mayor Lackey gave an update on the sewer grant that the village applied for through State Representative Troy Balderson's office. She informed the council that the village was selected to receive an additional \$750,000 in funding for the sewer plant and noted that it is sitting with the senate and has not been approved yet. Mayor Lackey also informed the council that Representative Balderson will be visiting the village on August 6th and will meet with Administrator Wilkins and herself.

a. Water Report to Council for June 2026

Mayor Lackey asked for a motion to approve the Water Report to Council for June 2026. Council Member Aaron Hoppel made the motion and was seconded by Council Member Mackenzie Brune. A roll call vote was taken with all members voting aye

Roll Call:

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

Motion Passed 6-0

b. Water Report to Perry County Commissioners for June 2026

Mayor Lackey asked for a motion to approve the June 2026 Water report to the Perry County Commissioners after review. Council Member Craig Cooperrider asked when the Glenford meter would be replaced as the numbers have not moved. Council President Dale Brussee stated that the water has been rerouted and is being metered from another location. Administrator Wilkins informed the council that he calls the commissioners office weekly and is told that they are extremely busy and understaffed. Mayor Lackey said that the contract must be reviewed to see if it specifies that repairs should be made in a timely manner. Council Member Cooperrider voiced his concern that the county is not being billed for the proper amount if the meter is down and water is routed to another location. Council President Brussee assured that the water is being monitored just at another location. Council Members Cooperrider and Hoppel asked why the numbers have not increased if this is the case. Mayor Lackey called the point of order and asked again if council would make a motion to approve. Council Member Craig Cooperrider made the motion and was seconded by Council Member Aaron Hoppel. A roll call vote was taken with all members voting aye.

Roll Call:

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

Motion Passed 6-0

Administrators Report:

Bills were presented for review.

Voorhies Property- Closing tentatively scheduled for the 31st of July.

Water/Sewer-

An email was received from Ventura Brothers- they stated that their schedule is starting to open up so we are trying to set a date for hydrants to be replaced.

Easement off of 188 in the works- there is a water line running under a home and we need to access it and place a manhole.

Pump at Shelly Lift station pump is down again. Two pumps have gone bad in almost a year. Water Operator Bryan Yantis spoke on his experience with the pumps since beginning his employment and also stated that previous employee Matt Stevens told him he had tried to tell the engineers that the pump would be too small for the elevation of the hill. He explained the route of the pipe and discussed issues with clogging since there is no screen. The cost is \$27,000 and that covers replacement of 2 pumps and the electric panel that needs to be upgraded from single phase to three phase. Mayor Lackey asked if Administrator Wilkins was asking for approval today. Administrator Wilkins stated that there was another quote he was waiting on. Mayor Lackey stated that this would be on the next meeting agenda.

Streets/Storm

A contractor's truck busted the storm drain that runs behind the Packer residence. It has been decided that they will patch that area and repair the ruts in the yard.

Parks-

Foster Manor Park- Administrator Wilkins received confirmation that it has been posted with the Perry County Engineers Office.

Pool Fill-In- using the free dirt that Mayor Lackey found, Sam hauled 55 loads between Thursday and Saturday and 30 more today. Council President Dale Brussee thanked Thorn Township for the use of their truck.

General-

The Village Dump Truck needs new brakes. Administrator Wilkins will schedule service. He estimates that the cost would be a few hundred dollars.

The new contract for village garbage collection is almost complete.

Unightly properties within the village were discussed. Items mentioned were clutter/junk in yards as well as high grass/weeds/flowers that obstruct the sidewalk. Administrator/Zoning Inspector Wilkins asked council members how they would like him to proceed. Council Member Cooperrider noted that it is hard to enforce zoning rules when they don't mention some of these things. Council Member Hoppel stated he does not think that the village can say anything to residents about their yards and homes when things look like they do. He cited the condition of the park and ball fields as well as the old pool area. Council Member Cooperrider stated again that he feels the Zoning laws and regulations must be updated before the village can enforce anything.

Mayor Lackey asked for a motion to approve payment of the bills. Council Member Craig Cooperrider made the motion and was seconded by Council Member Aaron Hoppel. A roll call vote was taken with all members voting aye.

Roll Call:

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

Motion Passed 6-0**Fiscal Officer's Report:**

Fiscal Officer Kelly Beem was not in attendance so Mayor Lackey presented the June bank reconciliation to council for review and approval. Council Member Aaron Hoppel made the motion and was seconded by Council Member Lynne Snider. A roll call vote was taken with all members voting aye.

Roll Call:

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

Motion Passed 6-0

Committee Reports:

- a. **Finance-** Committee Chair Hoppel gave the report. The Fiscal officer executed investing a million dollars into CDs. 4- \$250,000 CDs. Paving was discussed as well as looking into county money for paving. There should be approximately \$20,000 in funds available for paving. The Fiscal Officer presented the 2027 preliminary budget. The revenue reports look good however, the Street department and Parks and recreation may need funds transferred from the general fund since they don't have levies for these departments. A general maintenance repair account was discussed. Committee Chair Hoppel feels that there should be an emergency fund for repairs.
- b. **Parks and Recreation-** Committee Chair Tasia Savage gave the report. Park improvements were discussed. The Committee will be looking at updates/additions, potential cost as well as potential funding from grants and will discuss at the next meeting.

Zoning & Planning Commission Report: Not Held due to lack of business

Unfinished Business:

- a. **Capital Improvement Discussion-** Council Member Hoppel stated that he feels that the council needs to prioritize some things around the village when it comes to improvements. He feels like the council spreads itself out and tries to work on too many things at once. He asked the council their thoughts on the village building and paving of streets. Council Member Savage said that since the clothes closet has been moved and the weight reduced upstairs that the village building is not at the top of the list right now and as for the park just filling in the hole left by the pool and cleaning up the area is good for now. Council Member Hoppel asked the council where they feel the meters are in terms of priority. He said that he feels this is a top priority. Council Member Savage feels that if the village can put money into high yield accounts then they should not charge the residents for their water meters. Council Member Hoppel agreed. The water clerk explained that we can't really know how much revenue the village may be losing due to old meters. Mayor Lackey noted that RCAP has informed us that there isn't much in the way of grants for a project like this. They have told us that OPWC may be the best option as it has a zero interest option but that the project would not begin until next July as that is when the funds are awarded. Council member Savage noted that money could be lost by waiting. Council Member Cooperrider noted that material cost would go up if the village waits. Administrator Wilkins will invite another water meter vendor to the next meeting to go over pricing and options.
- b. **Voorhies Property-** Closing Tentatively scheduled for July 31st.
- c. **Village signs-** Council member Savage gave the update. She informed the council that the cost went up by \$5000 for a total of \$20,000 for both signs. The Buckeye Lake regional folks will pay 90% of that. Council decided that participation will be first come first served. Council Member Savage wants to start clearing trees as soon as the village closes on the Voorhies property in order to be ready for sign placement. Plans for clearing trees were discussed. Council Member Cooperrider noted that the current sign sits on cemetery property and would require permission to install the new sign in the same location. Council President Brussee stated that the cemetery does not want the sign there. Mayor Lackey stated she spoke with someone who said the sign wasn't a problem. President Brussee said that Doug Cooperrider was the one to speak with regarding this issue. It was noted that Circle K didn't mind the sign being placed on their property. Council will obtain quotes for tree clearing.
- d. **Solicitation in the Village-** Mayor Lackey spoke with the Village Solicitor who said that the village cannot outright ban solicitation as it is a form of protected speech under the first amendment.

The village can impose reasonable content-neutral restrictions on the time, place, and manner of protected speech provided that such restrictions prescribe adequate standards for administering officials to apply and are narrowly tailored to serve a significant governmental interest. The village should use Chapter One Twelve of the OBC to enforce soliciting regulations. The Village operates under Ohio basic code, it registers restrictions on how we can restrict it.

- e. **Creation and adoption of Village Code-** Mayor Lackey presented an example of code set forth by Shawnee Hills. The Solicitor was part of it and said that it works well for him. She noted that she was not asking for a decision, just for the council to review it. Council member Aaron Hoppel reiterated that he does not believe we should move forward with any ordinances until the village itself is cleaned up. It was noted that the zoning department would enforce this code. A discussion ensued regarding the state of the village.

New Business:

- a. **Fiscal Officer and Village Administrator positions pay ranges-** Mayor Lackey presented the council with a MORPC list of pay ranges for village employees as an example in order to compare with other areas. Council Member Cooperrider noted that if you adopt this for one employee you must do it for all positions within the village and we are smaller than these other areas and cannot afford to increase wages across the board. A discussion was held and the mayor presented information she gathered from local villages and municipalities. Mayor Lackey presented the idea of having two administrators- one for the outside crew and one for office matters. The Council weighed the pros and cons of this idea. The Council agreed that they must get with the fiscal officer to provide information on funds available.

Comments and Announcements:

Council Member Craig Cooperrider informed the council that he had accepted a position with Shelly Company and he thought he should not be on the Public Facilities Committee and it would be a conflict of interest. Mayor lackey stated that Council Member Cooperrider must recuse himself from any discussion and or vote related to the Shelley Company, whether it is on council or the committee. In other words, you don't have to restructure, but you can. It was decided that Council Member Savage would switch from rules committee to Public works and Council Member Cooperrider would take the spot on the rules committee.

Council Member Tasia Savage brought up the Thornville History project and stated she is still collecting Pictures and other historical information.

Sam Brown informed council members that there is still plenty of dirt to be moved to the pool.

A Part time maintenance worker position was mentioned and the council and Sam Brown discussed what that job would entail.

Adjournment:

Mayor Lackey asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:30pm. Council Member Aaron Hoppel made the motion and was seconded by Council Member Mackenzie Brune. A roll call vote was taken with all members voting aye.

Roll Call:

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

Motion Passed 6-0



 ~~Amanda Lackey, Mayor~~

Dale Brussee, Council President


Tonya Thurston, Clerk of Council