

Minutes
Regular Council Meeting
3 South Main Street
Thornville, OH
June 27, 2022

Council Members:

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

Other Village Officials:

Mayor Dan Harmon
Traci Sturgill, Village Administrator
Dan Williams, Chief of Police

Guests Present: Dale Brussee, Martha Rusler, Trish Cooperrider, Menjal & Tom Wilson, Luann Cooperrider, John Ulmer, Kathy Barr

Call to Order/ Pledge of Allegiance:

Mayor Dan Harmon called the Village of Thornville Regular Council Meeting to order on June 27, 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 Approve the Business Agenda for the Regular Council Meeting on June 27, 2022:

Mayor Dan Harmon requested a **motion** to approve the Business Agenda for the Regular Council Meeting on June 27, 2022. A **motion** was 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

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

Motion to Approve the Minutes from the Regular Council meeting on May 23

2022: Mayor Dan Harmon requested a **motion** to approve the minutes from the Regular Council meeting minutes May 23, 2022. A **Motion** was made by Council member Sterling Krout and was seconded by Council member Kim Billman. A roll call vote was taken with all Council members voting aye.

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

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Motion to Approve the Minutes from the Special Council meeting on May 31, 2022:

Mayor Dan Harmon requested a **motion** to approve the minutes from the Special Council meeting May 31, 2022. A **motion** was made by Council member Jill Anderson and was seconded by Council President Gina Kaetzel. A roll call vote was taken with all Council members voting aye.

Roll Call

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

Motion passed 6-0

Police Report: Chief Williams presented his monthly police report and advised he had a very busy month. He added if anyone has any questions from the report, he submitted to everyone, please let him know. The Dodge Charger is having mechanical issues which has been getting repair but it has been costly. We really need two vehicles here in the department. He did talk to Ford lately and we still have no eta on the new availability of cruisers.

Council member Erica O'Neill thanked Chief Williams for helping out street maintenance worker, Jason Kidd, with getting the new bleachers installed and put together.

Mayor's Report for May 2022:

Mayor Dan Harmon presented the Mayors Report for May 2022.

- **Monthly Water Report to Perry County Commissioners for May 2022:**

Mayor Harmon advised he needed a motion to receive the monthly water report to the Perry County Commissioners. Motion made by Council President Gina Kaetzel and was seconded by Council member Jill Anderson. A roll call vote was taken with all council members voting aye.

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

- **Monthly Water Report to Council for May 2022:**

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

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

- **Mayor's Court Report for May 2022:**

Mayor Harmon advised he needs a **motion** to receive the Mayor's Court report to council for May 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

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

Community Development & TAC Committee Members- Judge Luann Cooperrider introduced herself to Council along with those with her, Somerset Mayor Tom Johnson, Trish Cooperrider, Martha Rusler, John Ulmer, Tom & Mariel Wilson. They are members of the TAC and Economic Development committees. Luann wanted to update Council on what & why they are trying to do for the Village and to also share some other things with council. They all grew up here and love the town. These committees started meeting last September at the Lutheran Church and as a result of those meetings a lot of ideas have come out of them. The economic development group is currently working on obtaining funding for the Village and they wanted to share that with council tonight and hopefully get their blessing on it as well. Governor DeWine set forth 500 million dollars for 32 Appalachia counties in Ohio and we are one of them. This will be a first come/ first serve grant. She advised the design of it is for economic downtown revitalization. Mayor Tom Johnson is a genius at putting these package grants together and he is willing to help us. Judge Cooperrider also wanted to acknowledge Village Administrator Traci Sturgill. She comes to all of their meetings and is extremely helpful, takes minutes, sends out all meeting reminders and updates council on ideas and discussions. She wanted council to know they really appreciate that. Another idea for this funding is a possible multi-use trail which is 9/10's of a mile on Township Rd 358 that would connect Thornport to Thornville. They are also looking at applying for some Clean Ohio funds which the Village can be a part of also. She stated it would require a little bit of a buy in from the Village but it doesn't have to be money, it can be in-kind services, but they will figure all that out later.

Somerset Mayor Tom Johnson explained to council how the Appalachia region of Ohio has been underfunded historically and a lot of his work has been demonstrating how we aren't getting the same kind of investment opportunities that the urban areas are here in the rural areas of Appalachia. Intel will really impact us here soon. This grant wants to see communities work together.

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They aren't allowing individual communities to apply separately. Somerset is currently working with New Concord, Zanesville and Chillicothe. The governor has talked about three specific areas he would like to see communities focus in on. One is downtown revitalization. Parks & recreation would also be included in this category along with recruitment of businesses to the downtown area. Somerset has had great success with pop up shops. Cost sharing to building owners can be applied for in these funds. The second one is the planning and engineering for the cost estimates for the future projects so they are shovel ready to go. The final one is actually doing the projects. The first real steps are to dream big. Come up with ideas of what our town needs and what we would like to see come here now and in the future. Judge Cooperrider asked Mayor Johnson what the council needs to do? She knows they don't have to be the applicant but they have to support us? Mayor Johnson stated the question is, does Thornville want to go through a process like this? We can likely get \$100,000 in planning funds so Thornville can choose what areas they want to focus on. We would need to take the time to work together in terms of deciding what projects you want to focus in on. We could get funding that would then allow us to come up with park plans or pool plans, splashpad etc. Council President Gina Kaetzel asked Mayor Johnson if this grant was going to be made available to be used for the public swimming pool? Luann felt that would be more of a capital budget but Mayor Johnson does feel this will be something that is permitted for the funds use. Judge Cooperrider stated it could be part of it, but she doesn't feel this is the sole plan to fix Thornville's pool. She feels it should be an umbrella of what does this town need and how can we fit it into this plan. Mayor Johnson asked what some ideas were that council feels Thornville needs. Mayor Harmon definitely feels attracting more businesses to come here. Judge Cooperrider added what she hears at the meetings is a restaurant, coffee shop and gathering place. Mayor Johnson added that one thing different about Thornville from Somerset is that Thornville has been by-passed. Somerset is very noisy to sit outside and eat at the restaurant whereas Thornville would be much quieter. Judge Cooperrider asked Mayor Johnson what we need to do next and confirmed he was available to help Thornville with this through his consulting agency. Mayor Johnson said he is very willing to help pull this all together. He feels Thorn Township should also be involved. They are working on the next phase for the promenade near the kayak launch. The nice thing about this money is, the Department of Development Director does want us to dream big. Mayor Johnson added Governor DeWine is signing the legislature tomorrow and he will be attending that along with a meeting after to see how all of this will be rolled out. The deadline for phase 1 applications will be August 15th and they've set aside 30 million of the 500 million for initial planning. He feels we need to figure out what we want and meet again to come up with a proposal. Village Administrator Traci Sturgill asked if there would be a match for the grant. Mayor Johnson stated there is no match for this one. He also added one thing in the past is he always hears Thornville feels they aren't eligible due to income. They are for certain funding but for the majority they are eligible. Judge Cooperrider strongly encourages we look at the capital budget. She had talked to Traci about it earlier and she is going to look into it. The next economic development meeting will be July 7th @ 4pm at the Grace Lutheran church and Judge Cooperrider encourages everyone to attend, if possible.

Economic development committee member Trish Cooperrider added the village may be able to purchase more land with the grant. Committee member Martha Rusler feels we need larger and more ball diamonds. John Ulmer feels it is going to be a long process bringing Thornville back and we need to be patient with it but we still have to start moving together and working together with the township and neighboring communities to cooperatively make it work and make it happen.

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He drives around and sees the eyesores especially the building right next door to the Village offices.

Judge Cooperrider reminded everyone of the July 4th parade and all the fun at the park after the parade.

Discussion was held on the possibility of 40+ acres coming available for purchase just outside the Village limits that committee member John Ulmer had heard about, if we were interested in expanding and annexing that in. Council President Gina Kaetzel stated council is just now learning what they can and can't spend funds on, what they actually have available so they are taking things slowly for now.

Administrators report: Village Administrator Traci Sturgill let council know the pool and is going to hold a free admission day. It is being sponsored by the Perry County Community Club. They pay everyone's admission and free bottled water. This is how surrounding pools are putting on their free admission day also.

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. If not, she will need a **motion** to pay the bills. Council member Sterling Krout made a **motion** to pay the bills and **motion** was seconded by Council President Gina Kaetzel. A roll call vote was taken with all council members voting aye.

Roll Call

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

Traci also advised all the monthly reports are here for council to review.

Interim Fiscal Officer's report: Village Administrator Traci Sturgill advised council Kelly was in the office today and ended up going home ill. She apologizes for not being in attendance. She will send the month end reports out as soon as they are reconciled. We are still working on getting access to all the banking accounts.

Committee Reports for June 2022:

Parks & Recreation Committee: Committee Chair Lynne Snider advised the committee discussed the playground and decided to hold off on moving forward with the upgrade until we see how much the pool repairs/upgrades will be. They also discussed the pool repairs needed and we are all working on finding a forensic engineer to look behind the walls for erosion. Discussion was also held in regards to the ball diamond restrooms due to a complaint on there only being shower curtains for bathroom stall doors. The cost of that would be around \$4000. If TYRA would like to provide the supplies maybe the Village could install them. The roof was repaired on the village office and the old bleachers are being repaired. Sterling is going to paint/stain the old bleachers on July 23rd with a budget of \$600.

Public Facilities Committee: No meeting held

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Personnel Committee- No meeting held

Finance Committee: Committee Chair Sterling Krout advised the committee discussed holding off on any playground updates until we receive more clarification on the pool estimates. This isn't a no on the playground upgrade, it is just on hold. He added he talked about having a better understanding of the finances. He would like some financial ratios put together just because each committee member may have a different idea of what makes a Village financially healthy. He will see what all discussions they can plan on having with the new fiscal officer for a better understanding of the financials as a whole. Council member Lynne Snider asked if the audit was good. Village Administrator Traci Sturgill advised yes. It is completed and all good. Committee Vice Chair Gina Kaetzel added Traci had updated us that she was able to get access to the JP Morgan investment for the Letherman fund so we now are receiving the quarterly statements. Committee member Jill Anderson asked Traci if she knew what the loss was for this month. Traci advised she didn't look at it today but will have that ready for the next council meeting. She does know the process now if Council does decide to withdraw the funds and the FIN correction is complete.

Unfinished Business:

Mayor Harmon advised this is the 3rd reading for Ordinance #22-06 and he will need a **motion** to adopt.

- ORDINANCE #22-06 AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE 2023 TAX BUDGET FOR THE VILLAGE OF THORNVILLE AND DIRECTING THE VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR AND FISCAL OFFICER TO SUBMIT THE 2023 BUDGET TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR
3rd Reading

Council President Gina Kaetzel made a **motion** to adopt Ordinance #22-06. **Motion** seconded by council member Sterling Krout. A roll call vote was taken with all council members voting aye.

Roll Call

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

Pool Update: Village Administrator Traci Sturgill advised the engineers out of Indiana have declined traveling here due to our pool being a very small project for them and they have larger projects scheduled until January. We need to find a "forensic engineer" that is able to look down behind the walls of the pool to survey the erosion and see what all is taking place. Doug Pershon of Buckeye Aquatics, herself and Sterling are all currently searching for an engineer. Gina suggested trying Ohio State. We also have to find the leak, which is worse. Traci also advised our attendance is very low but that also is due to the weather. Surrounding pools are also closing for the same reason this year. We did have to issue \$2500 in pool membership refunds and pool parties due to the shoe requirement.

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Also, the Perry County health department made a surprise visit to the pool, most likely from some false comments posted on Facebook, but we passed with flying colors. Mayor Harmon added that is great news.

New Business:

- Annual Community Yard Sale Date: Village Administrator Traci Sturgill spoke with some Village residents and they would like to see the community yard sales scheduled for August 5th & 6th which is the normal weekend we have them yearly.

Comments and Announcements:

Citizen Comments: Judge Luann Cooperrider asked about the extension of the sidewalk down to Circle K. Village Administrator Traci Sturgill stated Council member Lynne Snider advised council at the last meeting that she had been getting complaints from village citizens about this being put in. Council member Lynne Snider stated yes, people aren't wanting us to do that but someone is going to get ran over by a vehicle if we don't install it. Mayor Harmon agreed. Citizen Kathy Barr asked if there was a reason these people would not want this? Citizen Dale Brussee stated it is not village property. He stated the town splits at the middle of St Rt 204 there so its technically township property. Everyone argued that was incorrect. It isn't in the township. Council member Lynne Snider asked if he meant the last house in the Village? Dale stated the last house is in the Village but all of the Gibson property is in the township. Village Administrator Traci Sturgill advised that is correct, but the empty lot owned by Mr. Underwood is in the Village along with Circle K. Dale advised yes, but only to the township road. Council member Lynne Snider and citizen Luann Cooperrider both stated Mr. Gibson has already advised he is fine with the sidewalk. Citizen Dale Brussee stated, but you can't use Village money in the township, is what he is trying to say. Village Administrator Traci Sturgill along with council member Lynne Snider advised it isn't village funds, it is being used from a donation. Dale agreed then it would be fine. Judge Cooperrider feels a lot of people are looking forward to that being installed. Traci also wanted to note for the record again, we did not receive any of the money for the new or repaired sidewalks put in last summer. Mr. Shelly worked with homeowners for all of that project and we are very appreciative of him for that. Judge Luann Cooperrider also asked if the rumor was true that the Shelly family donated a million dollars to the Village recently. Council member Lynne Snider advised yes, that is correct. She asked if there was a plan for the donation. Council advised the swimming pool, sidewalk, playground, downtown curbs, new bleachers were on the list. Mayor Johnson suggested turning the one million into five million. Judge Cooperrider advised by using it as a match with the grant they are discussing. Village Administrator Traci Sturgill did want the citizens to know the donation has not been spent as rumored also. It is in the Village donation fund.

Council Comments: Council member Erica O'Neil thanked all the citizens for coming tonight. It's nice to have citizens in the community attend the meetings and see what really is being addressed and discussed here with council and the administration.

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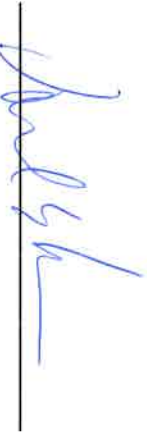
Mayor Harmon asked for a **motion** to adjourn the meeting. **Motion** made by Council member Kim Billman and was seconded by Council member Jill Anderson. A roll call vote was taken with all councilmembers voting aye.

Roll Call

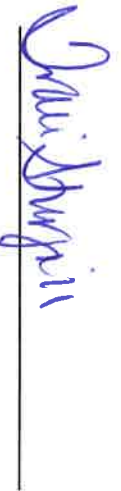
- Sterling Krout- aye
- Jill Anderson- aye
- Gina Kaetzel- aye
- Lynne Snider- aye
- Erica O'Neill- aye
- Kim Billman- aye

Motion passed 6-0

Adjourned at 8:15pm



Mayor Dan Harmon



Traci Sturgill, Council Clerk