

Minutes
Regular Council Meeting
3 South Main Street
Thornville, OH
February 22, 2021

Council Members:

Josh Hultgren
Daria Carr
Lynne Snider
Sterling Krout
Gina Kaetzel
Erica O'Neill

Other Village Officials:

Dan Harmon, Mayor
Traci Sturgill, Village Administrator
Melissa Tremblay, Fiscal Officer
Dan Williams, Chief of Police
Stephanie Reyher, Clerk of Council

Guests Present:

Call to Order/ Pledge of Allegiance:

Mayor Dan Harmon called the Village of Thornville Regular Council Meeting to order on February 22, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. by saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call:

Roll Call taken was taken with Council President Josh Hultgren, Councilmember Daria Carr, Councilmember Erica O'Neill, Councilmember Lynne Snider, Councilmember Sterling Krout and Councilmember Gina Kaetzel present.

Motion to Approve the Business Agenda for Monday February 22, 2021: Mayor Dan Harmon requested a **Motion** to approve the Business Agenda for the Regular Council Meeting on Monday February 22, 2021. A **Motion** was made by Councilmember Sterling Krout and was seconded by Councilmember Erica O'Neill. A roll call vote was taken.

Erica O'Neill- aye
Daria Carr – aye
Gina Kaetzel – aye
Sterling Krout – aye
Lynne Snider – aye
Josh Hultgren - aye
Motion passed 6-0

Motion to Approve the Minutes from the Regular Council Meeting on January 25, 2021: Mayor Dan Harmon requested a **Motion** to approve the minutes from the Regular Council meeting on January 25, 2021. A **Motion** was made by Councilmember Sterling Krout and was seconded by Councilmember Lynne Snider. A roll call vote was taken.

Daria Carr – aye
Gina Kaetzel – aye
Lynne Snider – aye
Sterling Krout – aye
Josh Hultgren – aye
Erica O'Neill - aye
Motion passed 6-0

Presentation of Bills:

Mayor Dan Harmon asked for a **Motion** to pay the bills for January 2021. A **Motion** was made by Council President Josh Hultgren and was seconded by Councilmember Gina Kaetzel. A roll call vote was taken.

Josh Hultgren – aye
Erica O'Neill - aye
Daria Carr – aye
Gina Kaetzel – aye
Lynne Snider - aye
Sterling Krout – aye
Motion passed 6-0

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Bank Reconciliation: Mayor Dan Harmon presented the Bank Reconciliation for January 31, 2021.

With no further discussion held Councilmember Lynne Snider made a **Motion** to receive the bank reconciliation for January 31, 2021 and was seconded by Councilmember Erica O'Neill. A roll call vote was taken.

Sterling Krout -aye
Daria Carr – aye
Gina Kaetzel – aye
Lynne Snider – aye
Erica O'Neill – aye
Josh Hultgren -aye
Motion passed 6-0

Fiscal Officer's Report- Fiscal Officer Melissa Tremblay – Fiscal Officer Melissa Tremblay said that she had nothing to report. Councilmember Daria Carr said that they had a special finance committee meeting and had a question that arose from that meeting. She asked when the police levy funds come in and there is a portion due to roll back that does not come from the citizen tax payers but rather from the state if that portion still goes into the police fund. Fiscal Officer Melissa Tremblay answered yes; that is shown on line 29.02-231 Property Tax Allocation. Daria asked if it is traditionally around 10%. Melissa answered that last year it was \$6412.14. Councilmember Daria Carr said when looking at the January Mayors Court report that there is an amount that goes to the State of Ohio, an amount that goes to Perry County Indigent Alcohol Fund and another amount that goes to Village of Thornville. She asked when that check is received if it comes in as the full amount and is then disbursed to other funds. Fiscal Officer Melissa Tremblay answered yes. Daria asked what happened to the \$525 that is in the report for January. Melissa answered that she received that check today and it will be deposited tomorrow and will show up on next month's report. The \$211 on this month is from December.

Police Report for February 2021 – Chief Dan Williams – Chief Dan Williams said that he had emailed the police report for February to the Council members. He shared that one of the Children's Services referrals will result in a police report.

Administrator's Report: Village Administrator Traci Sturgill – Village Administrator Traci Sturgill said that Council seats for Gina, Josh, Lynne and Daria are up and will need to be on the ballot this year. She shared that the owner of the building next to the Village Office received a construction loan so the construction on the apartments next door will begin. There will be a total of nine apartments. There will also be a parking lot for those apartments in the rear. Traci is working on the food truck rallies. She said the guys working the rally asked if Council President Josh Hultgren could get the waterproof gloves that they had used last year.

Public Hearing

Mayor Dan Harmon opened the public hearing for Ordinance #20-16 at 7:09 pm

- ORDINANCE #20-16 AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING AND CONFIRMING WILLOW WAY COURT AS A PUBLIC STREET FOR PUBLIC MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION BY THE VILLAGE OF THORNVILLE
2nd Reading

Mayor Dan Harmon closed the public hearing for Ordinance #20-16 at 7:10 pm

Mayor Dan Harmon opened the public hearing for Resolution #20-11 at 7:10 pm

- RESOLUTION #20-11 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SALE, BY INTERNET AUCTION DURING CALENDAR YEAR 2021, OF MUNICIPALLY OWNED PERSONAL PROPERTY WHICH IS NOT NEEDED FOR PUBLIC USE OR WHICH IS OBSOLETE OR UNFIT FOR THE USE FOR WHICH IT WAS ACQUIRED
2nd Reading

Mayor Dan Harmon closed the public hearing for Resolution #20-11 at 7:11 pm

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Mayor's Report for January 2021: Mayor Dan Harmon presented the Mayors Report

➤ **Monthly Water Report to Perry County Commissioners for January 2021:**

Mayor Harmon asked for a **Motion** to receive the monthly water report to Perry County Commissioners for January 2021. With no discussion held, a **Motion** was made by Council President Josh Hultgren to receive the Monthly Water Report to the Perry County Commissioners for January 2021 and was seconded by Councilmember Gina Kaetzel. A roll call vote was taken.

Sterling Krout - aye
Daria Carr - aye
Gina Kaetzel - aye
Lynne Snider- aye
Josh Hultgren - aye
Erica O'Neill - aye
Motion passed 6-0

➤ **Monthly Water Report to Council for January 2021:**

Mayor Harmon asked for a **Motion** to receive the monthly water report to Council for January 2021. With no discussion held, Council President Josh Hultgren made a **Motion** to receive the Water Report to Council for December 2020 and was seconded by Councilmember Sterling Krout. A roll call vote was taken.

Sterling Krout - aye
Daria Carr - aye
Gina Kaetzel - aye
Lynne Snider - aye
Josh Hultgren - aye
Erica O'Neill - aye
Motion passed 6-0

Mayor's Court Report for January 2021: Mayor Dan Harmon asked for a **Motion** to receive the Mayor's Court Report for January 2021. A **Motion** was made by Council President Josh Hultgren and was seconded by Councilmember Daria Carr. A roll call vote was taken.

Sterling Krout -aye
Gina Kaetzel -aye
Daria Carr - aye
Lynne Snider - aye
Erica O'Neill - aye
Josh Hultgren - aye
Motion passed 6-0

Committee Reports for February 2021

Parks and Recreation Committee – Councilmember Lynne Snider said they had discussed having Mr. Gioffre and the art students from Sheridan do the mural for the pool building. They talked about having the community submit ideas for the pool logos. They also discussed opening and closing days for the pool. Lynne said they talked about admission fees and memberships. Councilmember Sterling Krout said that he had looked into getting wifi for the pool and he heard back from two internet providers. The cost for Spectrum's month to month after a \$100 installation fee is \$69/month at a fixed rate. AT&T would require a one-year contract. They also have a \$100 install fee but the monthly service fee of \$49 is not locked in. He feels this is a service to tax payers. Village Administrator Traci Sturgill said that we had originally looked into the internet for the ability to accept credit cards, but she didn't feel it would be needed as the kids don't bring credit cards to the pool. They usually just bring cash or change. Councilmember Sterling Krout answered that the parents pay the taxes, this would be a service to their families and a convenience to them as well. The kids may not use the cards, they will probably just bring cash or change. However, we have spent so much to keep the pool going, he feels we should have this added convenience for the community as well. Village Administrator Traci Sturgill asked if he had found out how much the credit card fees would be. Sterling said he is still looking into that. Councilmember Lynne Snider shared that Village Administrator Traci Sturgill is working on the food truck rally. She also said that Councilmember Erica O'Neill was working on

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- fundraising for the pool. Lyriane asked Erica if she had contacted Butch about having a golf outing for a pool fundraising event. Councilmember Erica O'Neill said that she had not been in contact with him yet.
- Personnel Committee – Council President Josh Hultgren said they had nothing on the Personnel agenda this month.
- Public Safety and Facilities Committee – Council President Josh said they had discussed the 4th of July parade and trying to make a decision on when it will be scheduled.
- Finance Committee – Councilmember Daria Carr shared that they discussed the options for the Police Levy.

Old Business:

- ORDINANCE #20-16 AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING AND CONFIRMING WILLOW WAY COURT AS A PUBLIC STREET FOR PUBLIC MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION BY THE VILLAGE OF THORNVILLE
2nd Reading

- RESOLUTION #20-11 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SALE, BY INTERNET AUCTION DURING CALENDAR YEAR 2021, OF MUNICIPALLY OWNED PERSONAL PROPERTY WHICH IS NOT NEEDED FOR PUBLIC USE OR WHICH IS OBSOLETE OR UNFIT FOR THE USE FOR WHICH IT WAS ACQUIRED
2nd Reading

New Business:

- Discussion of Police Levy – Councilmember Daria Carr said that we had discussed these options in the Finance Committee meeting, but other Council members were not able to participate in that discussion, so she will give a recap of what was discussed. We have a continuous or permanent levy to fund the police. This levy was put in place in 1997 and no changes have been made to it since then. She said she wasn't sure that there was a full-time police chief at that time. Circumstances change over time such as wages, benefits and just keeping the doors open for a full-time police force, which is what the public has said it wants. We are taking more and more from the general fund to keep the doors open. With a goal toward not taking anything from the general fund and making the police department completely dependent upon just the police fund, we discussed different options which ranged from a second levy to a replacement levy. When the original levy was put into place at 5 mill, it was based on the value of the village at the time and that's how much each citizen taxpayer has to pay. Over time the value of the village has gone up, so to achieve that same pool of funds, the effective rate of the levy has gone down but the monetary needs have gone up. The levy would be recalculated and a higher amount would be deposited. Looking at the replacement levy option, the current levy brings in approximately \$55,000 per year and the cost to the taxpayer is \$76 per a \$100,000 valuation. A replacement would bring in an additional \$65,000. The cost per \$100,000 valuation to the taxpayer would be \$175. The other option we brought to Council is additional levies, which means they pass or fail by the voters on their own and it does nothing to affect the current levy. As a committee we looked at the different options and we found that very shortly, in less than 5 years it would not be enough to fund the police department except for the 2.8 mill or the 3.0 mill. Without having to do a replacement or renewal every five years, we had to be forward looking and also examine the impact on the tax payers. Mayor Dan Harmon said what we have in front us tonight is to decide between a replacement or an additional levy. If we find that an additional is the way to go, what mill do we wish to put it forward as. Our attorney has chosen to reword these resolutions so we'll also need to make a motion to amend these. The basic question is do we feel the replacement or the renewal/additional is the way to go. Councilmember Sterling Kroust asked Fiscal Officer Melissa Tremblay if she had any questions or comments. Fiscal Officer Melissa Tremblay questioned if looking at the new levies under the current levy amount, if the money from the state is included in that amount Village Administrator Traci Sturgill answered yes, that they told us that when you and I had our phone call with Auditor Drew Cannon. Melissa said, so the \$55,000 shown includes the money from the state, asking that because last year we brought in almost \$59,000. Councilmember Daria Carr responded that they calculate for us at a 95% collection rate so the actual levy may generate \$59,000, but the numbers that the auditor's office provides are always at the 95% collection rate based on historically what they calculate they can actually collect from us. The numbers we have are straight from the auditor's office. Village Administrator Traci Sturgill added that she has a note from when she and Fiscal Officer

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Melissa Tremblay had a call with Drew Cannon on February 8th where Melissa did ask that question and he answered \$6400 rollback included in calculation. Fiscal Officer Melissa Tremblay said that she is concerned about the numbers because if you look at our certificate in 2020, they budgeted us to bring in \$50,500 so we just need to make sure that the numbers we're looking at for the current levy are the correct numbers. That does not include the \$6200 they estimated for the property tax allocation, which is the money from the state. She added that she knows it's not a huge difference, but it's still a \$4,000 difference from what we brought in. Mayor Dan Harmon asked if that would be a difference to the replacement levy. Melissa answered, no, that it would be a difference to the current levy, not the replacement. She said we need to make sure that money is added in because if it is low by \$3,000 - \$4,000, over a five-year period that's \$15,000 and that might change some of the numbers of your carryover and the negatives. If you look at the 2.5, other than 2022 and 2023 where we're buying vehicles, if you look at 2026 and it says we're spending more, technically we wouldn't be. If it were a \$3,000 or \$4,000 difference, we would have more money that it says there so that negative would actually be a positive. We would be up almost \$10,000. Mayor Dan Harmon asked which of the mills that would affect. Melissa said if you look at 2.5 which would cost the taxpayer \$163 per 100,000 valuation instead of \$175, she thinks that we would be in the positive. It just makes her wonder if that amount includes the state amount, if it does it's low, if it doesn't, it's high. Councilmember Lynne Snider asked on 2021 why we don't have anything in the electric, gas or other utilities, but in 2022 we have \$2000. Village Administrator Traci Sturgill said that shows bringing everything over from the general fund if the police levy gets the increase in funds. Fiscal Officer Melissa Tremblay said that Council had voted this year to take all of that out of the general fund. This is the first year we have done that, just with the three lines Lynne mentioned. Lynne asked how much does come out of the general fund for the police. Councilmember Daria Carr said that last year we appropriated \$13,000 for salary, \$500 for medicare, \$2,200 for other benefits and \$15,000 for medical coverage. Mayor Dan Harmon said effectively that issue wouldn't affect the replacement levy, if we decided to go with that. The additional levy may require some research before we put it up for a vote. He asked if we would need to table that decision. Fiscal Officer Melissa Tremblay answered that we could go back and look at how much we brought in every year, but last year it was \$58,838. She said that even though the difference is just \$3,000 over 5 years it would be \$15,000 so that might make a difference in regards to the 2.5 mill. It could bring it up enough to cover every year except the two years when we have to buy a cruiser. She said that on a \$100,000 home, that's \$12 to the resident. Council President Josh Hultgren said he understands that would be at a 100% collection rate. Fiscal Officer Melissa Tremblay said no that is what we collected last year. She added if we collected \$58,800 last year and that wasn't 100% collection rate, say it was 95%, then that number of \$55,000 seems low. Councilmember Gina Kaetzel said that none of the Council had been through a police levy before and asked Melissa as the Fiscal Officer who has all of the numbers available, what she would recommend. Fiscal Officer Melissa Tremblay said that she doesn't really have a recommendation but what she has mentioned before is that if we decide to go for a replacement, we will lose some of the money from the state and that will go back on the taxpayers. How you make that decision depends upon how much money is needed and how much the taxpayers will have to pay. Councilmember Gina Kaetzel said as a citizen and taxpayer when she looks at something on a ballot that says replacement, she automatically thinks, oh okay, that is something I already pay. However, when she sees something that says new, she thinks she does not want to pay for something new. She said she thinks we need to educate the public. Melissa agreed that is important, we do need to make sure we have a sheet that explains everything to the citizens. Mayor Dan Harmon agreed as well, saying that we need to be clear with the citizens as to what we're asking and why and keep it simple for them. Melissa said to have info available on the website and hand out fliers. Councilmember Sterling Krou asked if we got a replacement, would that mean that we would not have any of our general fund needing to go toward the police levy. Fiscal Officer Melissa Tremblay said that the goal is whatever we pass, that no money will come from the general fund, the police department will be able to fully fund itself. She added that she found out that you can put the levy on the ballot in November and collect the next year. You just have to make sure the wording in the levy states commence tax year is 2021, to be collected in 2022. Village Administrator Traci Sturgill said that they are written that way.

Mayor Dan Harmon asked for a **motion** to amend the following Resolution to read as follows:

RESOLUTION #21-02 A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE NECESSITY TO LEVY A TAX OUTSIDE THE TEN-MILL LIMITATION, REQUESTING THE PERRY COUNTY AUDITOR CERTIFY TO THE VILLAGE OF THORNVILLE THE TOTAL CURRENT VALUATION OF THE VILLAGE OF THORNVILLE AND THE DOLLAR AMOUNT OF REVENUE THAT WILL BE GENERATED BY A REPLACEMENT TAX LEVIED OF FIVE (5.0) MILL FOR PROVIDING

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AND MAINTAINING MOTOR VEHICLES, COMMUNICATIONS, OTHER EQUIPMENT, BUILDINGS, AND SITES FOR SUCH BUILDINGS USED DIRECTLY IN THE OPERATION OF A POLICE DEPARTMENT, FOR THE PAYMENT OF SALARIES OF PERMANENT OR PART-TIME POLICE, COMMUNICATIONS, OR ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL TO OPERATE THE SAME, INCLUDING THE PAYMENT OF ANY EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS REQUIRED FOR SUCH PERSONNEL UNDER R.C. 145.48 OR R.C. 742.33, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

1st Reading

A motion was made by Council President Josh Hultgren to amend Resolution #21-02 and declare as an emergency. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Erica O'Neill. A roll call vote was taken.

Josh Hultgren - aye
Erica O'Neill - aye
Lynne Snider - aye
Daria Carr - aye
Sterling Krout - aye
Gina Kaetzel - aye
Motion passed 6-0

Councilmember Sterling Krout made a motion to adopt amended Resolution #21-02. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Lynne Snider. A roll call vote was taken with all members voting aye.

Sterling Krout - aye
Lynne Snider - aye
Erica O'Neill - aye
Daria Carr - aye
Josh Hultgren - aye
Gina Kaetzel - aye
Motion passed 6-0

Mayor Dan Harmon asked for a motion to suspend the rules for Resolution #21-02 and pass as an emergency. A motion was made by Council President Josh Hultgren to suspend the rules for Resolution #21-02 and pass as an emergency. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Erica O'Neill. A roll call vote was taken with all members voting aye.

Sterling Krout - aye
Lynne Snider - aye
Erica O'Neill - aye
Daria Carr - aye
Josh Hultgren - aye
Gina Kaetzel - aye
Motion passed 6-0

Mayor Dan Harmon asked for a motion to adopt Resolution #21-02 and pass as an emergency. A motion was made by Council President Josh Hultgren to adopt Resolution #21-02 and pass as an emergency. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Sterling Krout. A roll call vote was taken with all members voting aye.

Sterling Krout - aye
Lynne Snider - aye
Erica O'Neill - aye
Daria Carr - aye
Josh Hultgren - aye
Gina Kaetzel - aye
Motion passed 6-0

Councilmember Gina Kaetzel made a motion to remove Resolution #21-03 from the agenda. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Erica O'Neill. A roll call vote was taken with all members voting aye.

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Sterling Krout - aye
Lyone Snider - aye
Erica O'Neill - aye
Daria Carr- aye
Josh Hultgren - aye
Gina Kaetzel - aye
Motion passed 6-0

- RESOLUTION #21-03 A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE NECESSITY TO LEVY A TAX OUTSIDE THE TEN-MILL LIMITATION, REQUESTING THE PERRY COUNTY AUDITOR CERTIFY TO THE VILLAGE OF THORNVILLE THE TOTAL CURRENT VALUATION OF THE VILLAGE OF THORNVILLE AND THE DOLLAR AMOUNT OF REVENUE THAT WILL BE GENERATED BY AN ADDITIONAL TAX LEVIED OF _____ MILL FOR THE NECESSARY REQUIREMENTS TO PROVIDE POLICE PROTECTION FOR THE VILLAGE OF THORNVILLE, PERRY COUNTY, OHIO AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY
1st Reading

- ORDINANCE #21-03 AN ORDINANCE APPROVING, ADOPTING, AND ENACTING A COMPLETE STREETS POLICY FOR THE VILLAGE OF THORNVILLE, OHIO
1st Reading

- ORDINANCE #21-04 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE 20-14 (THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE), THEREBY REVISING SUMS FOR OPERATING EXPENSES AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY
1st Reading

Council Comments:

Sterling Krout - none
Gina Kaetzel - none
Lyone Snider - none
Daria Carr - Pertaining to complete streets, they talk about ensuring safety, among other things. Whatever it is we are being asked to ensure, that is often a higher standard of liability than otherwise what is placed upon a Village. She said she believes we should tread carefully when we put ourselves a greater duty than we otherwise would have. It is something we should investigate with other communities that have had these policies in effect and if anything has gone wrong. We should find out what happens when we adopt something like this that says we ensure safety and what our additional liability may be. Mayor Dan Harmon agreed this is something we should all look further into.
Josh Hultgren - none
Erica O'Neill - none

Citizens Comments:

Announcements:

Adjournment:

Mayor Dan Harmon asked for a **motion** to adjourn. A **motion** was made by Council President Josh Hultgren and was seconded by Councilmember Gina Kaetzel. A roll call vote was taken with all members voting aye.

Josh Hultgren - aye
Erica O'Neill - aye
Lyone Snider - aye
Sterling Krout - aye
Daria Carr - aye
Gina Kaetzel - aye
Motion passed 6-0

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Meeting concluded at 7:57 p.m.


Mayor Dan Harmon


Stephanie Reyher, Council Clerk

I, Stephanie Reyher Clerk of Council of the Village of Thornville, Ohio, do hereby
certify that the forgoing Resolution/ Ordinance is a true and exact copy of Resolution/ Ordinance
No. 21-02 passed by Village Council in an open meeting on the
22nd of February 2021.


Clerk of Council