

Thompstontown Council Meeting  
April 15, 2024  
7 PM

A regular meeting of the Thompstontown Borough Council was held in the Thompstontown Borough Office on March 18, 2024. The following were in attendance: Mayor Kenneth Hart, President Roger Stutts, Vice-President Andy Lenig, Secretary/Treasurer Sue Pontius, Councilmen/Councilwomen: Martin Wilson, Robert Speece, Connie Eaton, Nathan Claybaugh, and Engineer Brian Book. Solicitor Seth Mosebey and Willard Roush were absent. Motion to approve the financial report were made by Andy Lenig and seconded by Connie Eaton. Minutes were approved by Andy Lenig and seconded by Nathan Claybaugh. Minutes for the Thompstontown Volunteer Fire Department and the Municipal Authority were not available due to both meetings being held later this week.

Waynett Dunn representing the Emmanuel Lutheran Church of Thompstontown that closed December 31, 2023 reviewed the property to Council. The church is looking for change of ownership, it was brought up that the Historical Society and our Thompstontown Borough had expressed interest in looking into purchase of the property. The property needs upgrades to it, only three times upgrades were made over the years: 1843, 1871, and 1961. She noted the basement does need repairs also.

President Stutts asked if Council would be willing to think about this opportunity, and he would like to have Council go visit and look at it before they make any decision about it. A motion was made by Martin Wilson to go look at the property. Nathan Claybaugh seconded the motion. President Stutts asked Waynett when they can go, the date has been set for Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup> at 1 PM to meet at the church. Several Council members agreed to attend.

Frank Reasner representing the Girl's Softball Assn. asked for permission for the girls to hold their Spring and Fall games on the Thompstontown Field. Secretary Pontius reminded Mr. Reasner insurance has to be given to the office before anyone goes on the grounds. Motion by Andy Lenig and seconded by Connie Eaton to approve. Council approved.

Mr. Reasner's daughter Callaeid asked if she can paint lines on the Tennis court for her Girl Scout project. Council approved. She would like to be able to use the tennis courts for also for pickleball (a new game in recent years). Motion made by Andy Lenig and seconded by Connie Eaton. Council approved its use for pickleball.

Engineer Brian Book handed out and reviewed with Council a drawing for the helipad reviewed by Inspector Jim Carman. Mr. Book asked for Council to review and give their approval if there are no other comments or changes needed. Motion to approve made by Andy Lenig and seconded by Connie Eaton. All of Council approved.

Secretary Pontius reviewed with Council other expenses we will have to incur for our license to be approved. She also had quotes on the Paving, fire extinguisher, and windsocks needed to apply for the license. Motion was made by Andy Lenig to approve and Nathan Claybaugh seconded the motion. Council approved. It was noted that Secretary Pontius will take all of these and review with Inspector Jim Carmen before ordering, since new changes have been made after the quotes.

Solicitor Mosebey acknowledged an email he received with the need to discuss further the issue of alcohol use at the Fire House. Seth reviewed the difference between doing a resolution: (a decision to do something or to behave in a certain manner) or an ordinance which is a law by local government. President Stutts noted our borough is a dry borough which means both the fire company and our ambulance departments cannot sell alcohol or serve alcohol. I think what we are looking for is when a wedding or party happen at the fire department you just need to have rules for these times when bring your own bottle is used.

This should be what the fire and ambulance want to do. President Dymond agreed they just need to have something in writing since we are a dry borough. Perhaps just a by-law, but a by-law is superseded by an ordinance. Solicitor Mosebey will draw up something for the next Council meeting. Andy Lenig made the motion to allow the fire and ambulance departments to have alcohol on their premises, but neither department will not serve alcohol.

President Stutts reported for the street committee is having M & J Paving come to assess the flood waters on State Street that are coming into the Fire House. President Dymond informed Council their flood insurance deductible was \$500, it will be going to \$7000 if they have another occurrence.

Solicitor Mosebey updated Council on what is going on with the Joyce Fey Estate. Since this is a charitable estate, the Auditor General needs to approve. The Auditor General is having staffing issues, the earmarking to the park still needs to be established.

Vice-President Lenig presented a proposal for a small business from Eric Orndorf at 1828 Burns Road, Thompsontown, PA 17094. He wants to open his store in the premises of Thompsontown Market, 2 E. Main Street. Since this is a gun store, Solicitor Mosebey will review Borough Codes to see if there are any objections to gun stores within the Borough. Councilman Robert Speece made the motion for the gun business to be moved into 9 E. Main St. The motion was seconded by Nathan Claybaugh. The store can be moved upon no objections found by Solicitor Mosebey.

Mayor Hart reported he was a witness of two dogs owned by the same owner went after another dog in the park. The owner is unable to contain these dogs when he walks them at the same time. It was suggested a warning letter be sent to the owner to keep these dogs out of the park. Solicitor Mosebey was instructed to send a trespassing letter to keep these dogs out of Haldeman Park. Motion made by Andy Lenig, seconded by Robert Speece. Council approved.

Another dog issue came up with a resident who allows her dog to run outside, without a lease on other resident's property. Solicitor Mosebey was instructed to send her a letter also.

Councilwoman Connie Eaton asked if the Thompsontown Methodist Church can have West Pond ally blocked for Bible School on June 16-June 20<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-8:45 PM.

Meeting adjourned by: President Stutts at 8:15 PM.

Notes submitted by: Sue Pontius, Secretary-Treasurer