

VILLAGE OF THORNTON, ILLINOIS

55th Annual Youth Night Minutes

April 20, 2026

1. Call to Order

Village President **Maxine Reynolds** called to order the **55th Annual Youth Night Meeting** at **6:15 PM**. The meeting was recorded and streamed live on the Village of Thornton's Facebook page.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

All present stood for the **Pledge of Allegiance**.

3. Moment of Silence

A moment of silence was observed for public servants, military personnel, and residents who are ill or recently departed.

4. Roll Call – Village Officials

Present:

- President Maxine Reynolds
- Trustee Cunningham
- Trustee Middlebrooks
- Trustee Glaser
- Trustee Piszewski
- Public Works Superintendent Bryan Roberts
- Park & Recreation Director Dunlop
- Police Chief Wesolowski
- Fire Chief Schweitzer

Absent:

- Trustee Kaye
 - Trustee Pratscher
-

5. Introduction of Youth Officials

Village officials introduced the Youth Night participants, who assumed the roles of Village leadership for the evening.

6. Oath of Office – Youth Officials

All youth participants were administered the oath of office, pledging to represent the Village with respect, responsibility, and their best effort.

7. Youth Meeting Called to Order

Youth Village President **Maci Smith** called the Youth Meeting to order.

8. Roll Call – Youth Officials

Present:

- Village President **Maci Smith**
 - Clerk **Joseph Bautista**
 - Attorney **Annabelle Urquizo**
 - Police Chief **Jacob Garcia**
 - Treasurer **Montserrat Lopez**
 - Superintendent of Public Works **Trinity Sanders**
 - Superintendent of Recreation **Janya Drew**
 - Trustee **Willow Weller**
 - Trustee **Jaylen Washington**
 - Trustee **Natalia Garcia**
 - Trustee **Camille Dust**
 - Trustee **Fareed Raji**
 - Trustee **Luis Alvarez**
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9. Approval of Youth Officials

Motion: To approve the Youth Officials for the April 20, 2026 meeting
Seconded

Vote: All Ayes

Motion Carried

10. Youth Reports

Building Department March monthly report- Trustee Weller

In the month of March, the building department completed 362 inspection that included 4 new stop work orders, also 17 citations were issued. The building department issued 18 permits with total fees of \$1,993.28, the issued permits had a value of \$159,633.25 in work to be done in the village.

Finance Report Cash Position – Trustee Dust

As of March 31, 2026:

- **Total Funds:** \$9,705,811.54
- **General Fund:** \$3,962,453.44
- **SOS Grant Funds:** \$5,291,856.33
- **Debt Service:** \$53,443.63

Parks & Recreation Report – Trustee Garcia

The Recreation Department provides programs and services that enhance the quality of life for residents. Offerings include:

- Fitness center access
- Room, field, and pavilion rentals
- Preschool programs and summer camps
- Senior programming such as bingo and card clubs
- Community events including family movie nights

The department works collaboratively with other departments to maintain safe and enjoyable facilities and encourages residents to stay engaged in community activities.

Treasurer – Monserrat Lopez

The Treasurer explained the importance of budgeting, tracking revenue and expenses, and ensuring responsible financial management for the Village.

Fire Department Report – Trustee Raji

- 103 emergency responses
- 251 training hours completed
- State ambulance inspections completed and passed
- Fire engine inspections completed successfully

Residents were encouraged to participate in upcoming community programs.

Police Department Report – Trustee Alvarez

Monthly activity included:

- 698 total calls for service
 - 299 traffic stops
 - 69 citizen assists
 - 4 theft-related incidents
 - 51 assists to other agencies
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Public Works Report – Trustee Washington

Public Works responsibilities include:

- Water system monitoring and safety testing
 - Street, sidewalk, and infrastructure maintenance
 - Snow removal and seasonal operations
 - Maintenance of Village buildings and grounds
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Attorney Report – Annabelle Urquizo

The Village Attorney provides legal guidance, reviews ordinances and contracts, ensures compliance with laws, and represents the Village in legal matters.

Public Works Superintendent – Trinity Sanders

THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT HAS MANY JOBS AND RESPONSIBILITIES. WE ARE IN CHARGE OF THE WATER AND SEWER SYSTEM, BUILDING MAINTENANCE, STREETS, SIDEWALKS, LAWN MOWING, PARKS, SNOW PLOWING AND SALT SPREADING ALONG WITH CLEANING OF ALL THE VILLAGE BUILDINGS JUST TO NAME A FEW.

THE CREWS DO DAILY PUMP HOUSE CHECKS, COLLECT WATER SAMPLES, AND DO OUR MONTHLY OPERATING REPORTS, WHICH ARE SENT TO THE EPA TO MAKE SURE THE WATER IS SAFE AND CLEAN.

WE ALSO RESPOND TO CHECK BLOCKED SEWERS FOR RESIDENTS. IF A PROBLEM IS LOCATED, WE RESPOND WITH OUR SEWER JET AND USE IT TO CLEAR ANY BLOCKAGE FOUND.

CURRENTLY, WE ARE WORKING ON THE BUDGET. THIS PROCESS IS DONE EVERY YEAR TO MAKE SURE THAT YOUR MONEY IS SPENT IN A RESPONSIBLE MANNER.

IN CLOSING, I WOULD LIKE TO THANK EVERYONE IN PUBLIC WORKS FOR WORKING TOGETHER AS A TEAM.

Parks and Recreation Director – Janya Drew

The Recreation Department’s mission is to provide recreation programs, facilities and parks that improve the quality of life for the residents of Thornton.

We offer many services to residents including: fitness center, equipment, pavilion, field and room rentals. Senior residents enjoy Bingo and other card games throughout the week. We have an excellent Preschool program. We plan family events, concessions, egg and pumpkin hunts. We offer summer camp and summer workshops.

View upcoming events on Facebook, the Village website and cable channel 4.

The Recreation Department works closely with the other Thornton Departments to keep our parks safe and in excellent condition.

We welcome your suggestions and ideas. Remember our motto: Take time for fun!

Police Chief – Jacob Garcia

The Thornton Police Department is dedicated to ensuring the safety and security of the community through professional law enforcement, proactive crime prevention, and strong community partnerships. Committed to integrity, transparency, and public service, the department upholds the highest standards in protecting residents, businesses, and visitors. With a focus on fostering trust and collaboration, the Thornton Police Department works diligently to maintain a safe and welcoming environment for all.

The Police Department is made up of 14 full-time officers, 2 part-time officer, one police administrative assistant and one part-time police clerk. The police department is part of several task forces to include the South Suburban Emergency Response Team-SSERT, the South Suburban Major Crimes Task Force-SSMCTF, the Suburban Major Accident Reconstruction Team-SMART and the Illinois Statewide Auto Theft Taskforce-ISATT.

In 2025, the Police Department averaged over 625 incidents each month. The Police Department is committed to full compliance with the SAFE-T Act, ensuring transparency, accountability, and fairness in law enforcement. We have implemented necessary policy updates, enhanced officer training, and adopted measures to align with the Act’s provisions, including police accountability, use-of-force standards, pretrial reforms, and expanded body camera usage.

The Thornton Police Department remains steadfast in its mission to serve and protect the community with professionalism, integrity, and transparency. As we navigate through evolving challenges and adapt to new reforms, our commitment to public safety, accountability, and community engagement remains unwavering. We look forward to continuing our efforts in building a safer Thornton for all.

11. Motion to Accept Youth Reports

Motion: To accept the Youth Reports and place them on file
Seconded

Vote: All Ayes

Motion Carried

12. Youth Ideas to Improve the Community

Youth Officials shared several ideas for enhancing the Village, including:

- Trustee Dust commented on possibly adding a **basketball court or additional hoops** at local parks

- Clerk Bautista recommended expanding the **skate park** to offer more features
- Trustee Alvarez recommended installing a **soccer field** to promote recreation and community engagement
- Trustee Washington's idea for improvement was adding **volleyball nets** for outdoor activities
- Trustee Raji's comment was adding more religious chucch. for the **community**.

The Board recognized the thoughtful and creative ideas presented.

13. Motion to Accept Youth Ideas

Motion: To accept the Youth Officials' ideas and forward them to the Village Board for consideration
Seconded

Vote: All Ayes

Motion Carried

14. Return of Gavel

The Youth President returned control of the meeting to President Reynolds. The Board commended the students for their participation and leadership.

15. Adjournment of Youth Night

Youth night meeting was adjourned at 6:36PM.

Maxine Reynolds Village President

Nikki Kitakis Village Clerk