

# VILLAGE OF THORNTON

## REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

August 17, 2026

The Regular Board Meeting of the Village of Thornton was called to order by Village President Maxine Reynolds on Monday, August 17, 2026, at 6:19 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Village Hall. The meeting was recorded by Village Clerk Kitakis and streamed live on the Village of Thornton Facebook page.

President Reynolds led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a Moment of Silence honoring public servants, members of the military, the sick, those recently departed, with special remembrance of Madeline Zander, and thoughts and prayers for neighboring communities impacted by the recent severe storms and tornadoes.

### Roll Call

#### Present:

- President Maxine Reynolds
- Trustee Cunningham
- Trustee Middlebrooks
- Trustee Glaser
- Trustee Pratscher
- Trustee Pisarzewski
- Public Works Superintendent Roberts
- Park & Recreation Director Dunlop
- Police Chief Wesolowski

#### Absent:

- Trustee Kaye
- Fire Chief Schweitzer

### Approval of Minutes

#### Committee Meeting Minutes – August 3, 2026

Trustee **Cunningham** moved to approve the Committee Meeting Minutes of August 3, 2026, as written.

Seconded by Trustee **Glaser**.

| Trustee      | Vote    |
|--------------|---------|
| Cunningham   | Yes     |
| Glaser       | Yes     |
| Middlebrooks | Yes     |
| Pratscher    | Abstain |
| Pisarzewski  | Abstain |

| Trustee | Vote   |
|---------|--------|
| Kaye    | Absent |

**Motion carried.**

## **Regular Board Meeting Minutes – August 3, 2026**

Trustee Cunningham moved to approve the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of August 3, 2026, as written.

Seconded by Trustee Glaser.

| Trustee      | Vote    |
|--------------|---------|
| Cunningham   | Yes     |
| Glaser       | Yes     |
| Middlebrooks | Yes     |
| Pratscher    | Abstain |
| Pisarzewski  | Abstain |
| Kaye         | Absent  |

**Motion carried.**

## **Executive Session Minutes – August 3, 2026**

Trustee **Cunningham** moved to approve the Executive Session Minutes of August 3, 2026, as written.

Seconded by Trustee **Middlebrooks**.

The recording reflects affirmative votes from Trustees Cunningham, Middlebrooks, and Glaser. The responses of Trustees Pratscher and Pisarzewski were not clearly captured in the transcription.

**Motion carried.**

## **Approval of Vouchers**

Trustee **Glaser** moved to approve payment of the vouchers dated August 17, 2026, in the total amount of \$655,401.96, of which \$408,454.50 was attributable to Secretary of State Grant expenditures and \$137,028.00 represented prepaid checks.

Seconded by Trustee **Cunningham**.

| Trustee      | Vote   |
|--------------|--------|
| Glaser       | Yes    |
| Cunningham   | Yes    |
| Middlebrooks | Yes    |
| Pratscher    | Yes    |
| Pisarzewski  | Yes    |
| Kaye         | Absent |

**Motion carried.**

## **Trustee Resignation**

President Reynolds announced that Trustee Kaye had submitted his resignation from the Village Board and that she had accepted his resignation.

## **Public Comment**

President Reynolds opened the floor for public comment concerning items not appearing on the agendas.

### **Simone Jackson**

Simone Jackson addressed the Board and residents regarding her removal from her position with the Village. Ms. Jackson stated that she wished to provide transparency regarding matters she believed could affect the Village and its taxpayers.

Because Ms. Jackson specifically requested that her statement be read verbatim, her comments are reflected in substantially greater detail in the minutes.

Ms. Jackson stated that on August 13, 2026, she was presented with a letter from President Reynolds advising her that her services were no longer needed and that she was immediately escorted from Village Hall by police personnel. She stated that the letter contained several serious allegations concerning her performance and conduct and that, with the exception of one concern, the allegations were new to her and had not previously been addressed with her verbally or in writing.

Ms. Jackson stated that the letter also indicated that her removal as Treasurer required confirmation by the Village Board and noted that the Board was expected to consider the matter during a Special Meeting scheduled for Wednesday. She respectfully asked each Trustee to obtain and review the complete factual record before taking final action.

Ms. Jackson stated that at the time of her removal there had been no meaningful transition of the Village's financial functions. She explained that she had been actively responsible for financial close activities intended to identify possible fraud; payroll and related compliance matters; preparation for the annual audit; required reporting and reconciliations; financial reporting; and other outstanding compliance work at the state and county levels.

Ms. Jackson further stated that she served as Treasurer for the Secretary of State Police Auto Theft Grant Program, from which a portion of her compensation was funded, and that ongoing financial matters remained integral to the program's compliance and substantial financial decision-making.

She stated that financial decisions and other matters had been planned for the week following her removal and that much of the knowledge necessary to complete the outstanding work had not yet been transferred. Ms. Jackson expressed concern that abruptly removing the individual responsible for those functions without a transition could create financial and compliance risks for the Village.

Ms. Jackson stated that she believed the consequences of those risks would ultimately be borne by taxpayers through additional professional fees required to complete unfinished work, possible fines resulting from delayed reporting, additional time required to correct or understand outstanding financial matters, and increased legal expenses.

Ms. Jackson advised the Board that her attorney was reviewing potential wage-payment issues arising from work hours and compensation matters that she stated she had raised before her removal. She also stated that her attorney was reviewing potential whistleblower-retaliation issues associated with financial controls and authorization concerns she had raised while performing her duties and safeguarding public funds.

Ms. Jackson emphasized that she was not appearing before the Board to announce legal conclusions or litigate the matters publicly, stating that those issues were being handled by her attorney. Instead, she asked the Trustees to understand what she characterized as the complete story and the potential risks facing the Village before making a consequential decision.

Ms. Jackson stated that, if she were a Thornton resident, she would ask what plan was in place to protect the Village and its residents from unnecessary financial exposure during the transition and from stalled operations resulting from the abrupt personnel decision.

Ms. Jackson concluded by stating that she took her oath and responsibility to safeguard public funds seriously. She stated that raising questions concerning authorization, documentation, financial controls, and compliance was not intended to create conflict but was part of performing the responsibilities entrusted to her.

She concluded that regardless of the Board's ultimate decision, Thornton residents deserved a decision that was informed, transparent, and made with a clear understanding of both the facts and the financial consequences.

Ms. Jackson thanked the Board.

There being no additional public comments, President Reynolds closed Public Comment.

## Old Business

None.

## New Business

None.

## President's Closing Comments

President Reynolds thanked Village employees and elected officials for their service and thanked Thornton residents for allowing Village officials to serve the community. She also thanked everyone who attended the meeting.

## Adjournment

Trustee **Pratscher** moved to adjourn the Regular Board Meeting.

Seconded by Trustee **Glaser**.

A voice vote was taken.

**Ayes:** All

**Nays:** None

**Motion carried.**

The Regular Board Meeting was adjourned.

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**Respectfully Submitted,**

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**Maxine Reynolds**  
Village President

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**Nikki L. Kitakis**  
Village Clerk

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