

VILLAGE OF THORNTON, COUNTY OF COOK  
MINUTES OF THE PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
FEBRUARY 12, 2025

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Howell called the meeting to order at 6:32PM.

**Roll call:**

Chairman Howell, Commissioner Biedzycki, Commissioner Paarlberg, and Commissioner Roeda.

Absent: Commissioner Hanson, Commissioner Walker, and Commissioner Ogbonnaya

**MINUTES**

Chairman Howell asked for a motion to approve the minutes from October 9, 2024.

Motion was made by Commissioner Paarlberg to approve the October 9, 2024 minutes, seconded by Commissioner Roeda.

Ayes: ALL

Nays:

Motion: Carried

Absent: Commissioner Hanson, Commissioner Walker, and Commissioner Ogbonnaya

**VILLAGE BOARD MEETING REPORTS**

None

**Old Business:**

Chair Howell asked Interim Clerk Kitakis to give an update on recent meetings.

Interim Clerk Kitakis explained a dumpster permit ordinance had been passed, and gave a quick break down of the ordinance. Interim Clerk Kitakis also recalled that the contract for Flood Brothers garbage services was up for renewal, and it looking as though we would renew with Flood Brothers.

Chairman Howell requested an update on the backyard chickens. Interim Clerk Kitakis explained the backyard chickens discussions have halted at this point in time. Commissioner Roeda questioned why the board put the backyard chicken referendum on the ballot if they are not going to pass the ordinance. Interim Clerk Kitakis explained that the public would need to come a board meeting and voice their concerns.

Chairman Howell questioned if there was any ordinance on bee keeping in the Village. Interim Clerk Kitakis confirmed there is currently no such ordinance in place.

Chairman Howell asked if there were any upcoming property sales. Interim Clerk Kitakis explained currently the Village is in talks with someone to purchase the RC track lots to build a commercial property.

Chairman Howell also inquired what was happening with the Overdoors property. Interim Clerk Kitakis explained there is still just discussion nothing confirmed at this time with that property.

**New Business:**

**None**

**Old Business:**

Commissioner Biedzycki inquired about separating the Village from the Thornton Township.

Commissioner Biedzycki also inquired what services our Village of Thornton seniors receive from Thornton Township; specifically, the snow removal and grass cutting have ceased and our senior citizens are no longer receiving those services. Commissioner Biedzycki once again stated the Village of Thornton should separate from the Thornton Township and upon separation the Village of Thornton should have Thornton taken out of the Township and have called the South Suburban Township. Interim Clerk Kitakis encouraged Commissioner Biedzycki to come to a board meeting and make a public comment. Commissioner Biedzycki requested that Interim Clerk Kitakis put the topic of the separation from the Township on the board's agenda and hopefully get a discussion started.

Chairman Howell encouraged Commissioner Biedzycki to go to the Thornton Township or email the Thornton Township to try and get some information for the questions being asked.

Chairman Howell and the present Commissioners had more discussion about the Village of Thornton separating from Thornton Township, and the ceasing of previous services.

Chairman Howell suggested the Planning and Development Committee make a recommendation to the board to separate from the Thornton Township if there is no change in leadership at the Thornton Township, and to also get a break down of the Village of Thornton's allocations, and finally a vote of no confidence in the current leader.

Commissioner Roeda made the motion to vote of no confidence in the current leadership at the Thornton Township. Commissioner Biedzycki seconded that motion.

More discussion between the Planning and Development Committee took place regarding the leadership of Thornton Township.

Commissioner Biedzycki reiterated that the Village of Thornton should look into having Thornton removed from the Thornton Township name.

Chairman Howell revisited a previous conversation regarding the Village displaying “Hometown Heroes” signs throughout the village. Interim Clerk Kitakis explained this topic was discussed at a board meeting previously and there was not much discussion. The Planning and Development Committee continued to discuss this topic, and how other surrounding towns do something similar to this.

Interim Clerk Kitakis explained the veteran flags would fall under the responsibility of Public Works since that department would have to put them up, take them down, and store the flags.

Chairman Howell revisited a previous conversation of a Tree Committee. Recently Chairman Howell applied for a tree grant and was awarded the grant. The grant is for 15 trees. The grant requires one volunteer per tree. The volunteer would be responsible for watering the trees until their roots set. Again, this would fall under the responsibility of Public Works for maintaining. The Planning and Development Committee continued to discuss this topic and possible tree placement.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business for the good and welfare of the Village, a motion was made by Chairman Howell asked for a motion for adjournment.

Commissioner Roeda made the motion to adjourn, Commissioner Paarlberg seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 7:24PM

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Andrew Howell, Chairman

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Nikki Kitakis, Interim Clerk