

VILLAGE OF THORNTON

COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 15, 2025 – 7:01 P.M.

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

President Reynolds called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM and requested Clerk Kitakis to take the roll. The meeting was recorded and streamed on social media.

President Reynolds – Here

Trustee Cunningham – (Arrived Late)

Trustee Middlebrooks – Here

Trustee Kaye – Here

Trustee Glaser – Here

Trustee Pratscher – Here

Trustee Piszczewski – Here

Public Works Superintendent Roberts – Here

Recreation Director Dunlop – Here

Police Chief Wesolowski – Here

Fire Chief Schweitzer – Here

2. Public Comment

President Reynolds invited public comment on agenda items.

Robert Enright, 116 N. Walcott St.

- Noted inconsistencies in vouchers:

- American Express Invoice #9232025 (dated 9/10/2025) – ZipRecruiter listed four times at -\$504 and once at +\$504. Requested review.

- Darcy Chevrolet Invoice #9032025 (dated 9/08/2025) – Vehicle acquisition for a 2015 Dodge Caravan listed at \$50,000; questioned accuracy.

Mike Garth, 28 Arrowhead Dr.

- Thanked police and crossing guards for their service.

- Raised concerns about railroad crossing conditions and truck traffic near school areas; emphasized need for continued attention.

No additional public comments were offered.

3. Committee Reports

Permits/Code: 18 permits issued in August, totaling \$1,592 in fees and \$165,000 in estimated work.

Recreation: Preschool underway with new and returning students. Monthly Singing Bingo, movie night, and chair yoga continuing. Thanks extended to Planning & Development Commission and volunteers for Hubbard Park tree planting. Deadline for fall memorial bricks: October 15, 2025. Congratulations to Mary Velquez on 15 years of service.

Police: 744 calls for August (311 traffic stops, 118 assist citizen, 42 assist other agencies).

Fire: 41 inspections, no fines/tickets, 300 training hours. Engine 45 back in service. Heat counter program available; Sunday blood pressure checks 9:00 AM–12:00 PM.

4. Treasurer's Report – Treasurer Jackson

Cash Position (as of 8/31/2025): \$11,020,719.07 (includes SOS Grant funds).

General Fund: Revenues \$985,736.27; Expenditures \$1,863,031.65; Excess expenditures: \$877,295.38.

Water Fund: Revenues \$259,815.38; Expenditures \$260,107.00; Excess expenditures: \$291.62.

Line-Item Transfer: Created new revenue account (05-404069 “Donations Received”) and expense account (05-678041 “Theft Task Force Expenses”) to record \$8,608.98 NICB donation for ISAT bait car system.

5. Department Reports

Attorney Dillner – No report

Administrator Payne – Presented several items:

- Audit Update – Final audit PDF expected from Lauterbach & Amen by September 19, 2025. Filing deadlines confirmed as current.
- ISAT Vehicle Purchase – Request for approval of 2025 GMC Sierra from Heller GMC to replace previously approved Ziegler bid.
- Quarry Blast Event – Scheduled for Saturday, October 4, 2025, Noon–10:00 PM (music 2:00–7:00 PM). Hubbard Park rental and insurance confirmed. Police approved Juliette Street to Williams Street closure. Additional staffing to be present.

- Southland Development Authority Proposal – 110 E. Margaret St. – Concept for joint venture redevelopment into a family restaurant (“Happy Trails”), business incubator space, and 2–3 apartments. Village would contribute property only, retain 70% revenue share, with reversion clause if project fails.
- Cybersecurity Evaluation Proposal – Brad Gordon (Proxit) presented \$5,000 cybersecurity vulnerability assessment proposal (funded from contingency). Estimated duration one month; covers all Village systems including Police and Fire.
- Fire Alarm Ordinance – Draft Ordinance 2025-015 – Requires automatic fire alarms in industrial/commercial buildings >1,000 sq. ft. and multifamily buildings (two+ units/two+ stories). One-year compliance period.
- Electronic Message Center – Recommended approval of Roeda Signs proposal (\$30,775) for replacement EMC on Margaret Street (budgeted in Capital Fund).
- Surplus Police Vehicles – Resolution to declare three vehicles surplus and authorize disposal.

6. President’s Report – President Reynolds

President Reynolds thanked Openlands and volunteers for tree planting and acknowledged all who assisted at recent events.

7. Announcements

- Coffee with the Mayor successful; thanks to Nicor Gas guest speaker.
- Job postings: Public Works Technician (FT), Crossing Guards (PT), Library Children/Teen Programming Coordinator.
- Wolcott School: Girls’ basketball tryouts (Sept 15–18); PTA taffy apple fundraiser (Sept 29); vendors sought for Dec. 6 breakfast/craft fair.
- Historical Society: 50th Anniversary successful; new signage installed; next meeting Sept 22 at 7:00 PM (program: Corrie ten Boom); quarry tour Oct 8 (reservations required).
- Community Center: Chair Yoga 4:00 PM on Sept 24; Movie Night (“How to Train Your Dragon”) Sept 26 at dusk.
- Library Coloring Night: Sept 30 at 6:30 PM.
- Village-Wide Garage Sale: Sept 26–28; register with Village Hall.
- Volunteers needed for committees (Chickens, Holiday & Seniors, Walking Club, Garden Club).
- Veterans Breakfast: Nov 11, 9:00 AM at American Legion (RSVP required).

8. Old Business

None.

9. New Business

Items forwarded for Regular Board consideration:

- Approval of ISAT vehicle purchase.
- Approval of Quarry Blast event.
- Cybersecurity evaluation contract with Proxit (\$5,000).
- Approval of EMC replacement (Roeda Signs \$30,775).
- Adoption of Fire Alarm Ordinance 2025-015.
- Approval of Police Surplus Vehicles Resolution.

10. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Trustee Pratscher, second by Trustee Kaye. Roll call vote: All present Trustees – Yes. Adjourned at 8:24 PM.

Village Clerk Nikki Kitakis