

Village of Thornton

Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: March 16, 2026

Time: 6:02 PM

Location: Village Hall

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 PM.

Clerk Kitakis announced the meeting was being recorded and streamed live on the Village of Thornton Facebook page. Residents were asked to silence electronic devices.

2. Roll Call

Present:

- President Maxine Reynolds
 - Trustee Cunningham
 - Trustee Middlebrooks
 - Trustee Kaye
 - Trustee Glaser
 - Trustee Pratscher
 - Trustee Piszczewski
 - Public Works Superintendent Bryan Roberts
 - Park & Recreation Director Dunlop
 - Police Chief Wesolowski
 - Deputy Chief Duvall
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3. Public Comment

- **Robert Enright (116 N. Wolcott)** addressed the Board regarding the proposed ordinance related to electric vehicle charging stations.
 - He expressed concern that the installation and maintenance costs may outweigh the benefit, noting that a very small percentage of residents currently utilize electric vehicles.
 - He also referenced nearby communities already offering charging stations and suggested the Village evaluate whether such infrastructure is necessary at this time.
 - No further public comments were made.
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4. Committee Reports & Discussion

Building Department – Trustee Piszczewski

- Reported 203 inspections completed with no citations issued.
- 10 permits were issued totaling \$780 in fees, representing \$372,205.40 in construction value.

- No questions or further discussion from the Board.
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Finance – Trustee Cunningham

- Reported total fund balances of \$9,386,754.28.
 - No additional discussion.
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Parks & Recreation – Trustee Middlebrooks

- Highlighted ongoing programming including senior activities, AA and TOPS meetings, and monthly bingo luncheons.
 - Announced continued partnership with the library for yoga, movie nights, and other programming.
 - Noted preparations underway for the annual Easter Egg Hunt.
 - Recognized **Ida Martinez** for 10 years of dedicated service, noting her positive attitude, flexibility, and willingness to assist across departments.
 - Encouraged residents to stay informed via Comcast, social media, and Village communications.
 - No further discussion.
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Public Works – Trustee Kaye

- Reported 12 JULIE locates and 3 sewer complaints for the month.
 - Noted it was a relatively smooth month while acknowledging the department's continued daily workload.
 - No additional discussion.
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Police Department – Trustee Glaser

- Reported 620 calls for service, 290 traffic stops, 65 citizen assists, 75 ordinance violations, and 32 assists to other agencies.
 - No questions from the Board.
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Swearing-In of Officer Christopher Burke

- Officer Burke was formally sworn in.
 - Police Chief Wesolowski highlighted Officer Burke's achievements:
 - Over 20 years of law enforcement experience
 - Prior role as a sergeant
 - Holds a master's degree
 - It was noted he has completed field training and will begin solo patrol immediately.
 - Board members expressed support and appreciation for his addition to the department.
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Fire Department – Trustee Pratscher

- Reported 101 inspections/complaints, 100 emergency responses, and 270 training hours.
 - No additional discussion.
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Treasurer's Report – Treasurer Jackson

- **General Fund:**

- Revenues: \$918,448.94
 - Expenditures: \$413,154.63
 - Surplus: \$505,295.34
 - **Water Fund:**
 - Revenues: \$4,198.42
 - Expenditures: \$127,006.23
 - Deficit: \$122,807.81
 - No additional discussion or questions.
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5. Attorney Report

- No report.
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6. Administrator Report – Administrator Payne Ordinance Correction

- Explained a scrivener’s error in Ordinance 2026-007 regarding foreclosure/vacant property registration fees.
 - Clarified Board intent was \$350, not \$325.
 - Correction to be considered at the regular meeting.
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Vehicle Purchases (ISTAT Task Force)

- Presented three vehicle purchases funded through a Secretary of State grant:
 - 2026 Ford Explorer – \$57,877.63
 - 2026 Dodge Durango – \$54,639.63
 - 2026 GMC Sierra – \$58,228.63
 - Clarified these vehicles are **not for the Thornton Police Department**, but for the ISATT task force.
 - Noted the GMC bid was lowest after removing improperly included sales tax.
 - No further discussion.
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7. Proposed Ordinances (Discussion Only)

Daycare Regulations

- Administrator explained current code lacks regulation for daycare operations.
- Proposed amendment would:
 - Allow home daycares as accessory uses
 - Require proof of State licensing
 - Require fire inspections
 - Establish operational standards (including residency requirement and outdoor play area)

Board Discussion:

- Trustee Cunningham raised question regarding limits on the number of children; Attorney Touhy clarified that is regulated by the State.
- Confirmed daycare operators must also obtain a Village business license.

- Trustee Cunningham questioned what would happen if daycares operate without a business license. Attorney Touhy explained enforcement mechanisms for unlicensed operations would be executed.
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Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

- Clarified the ordinance does **not install stations**, but regulates them.

Board Discussion:

- Addressed confusion raised during public comment.
 - Confirmed:
 - Applies primarily to commercial properties and parking lots
 - Residential installations are permitted but require permits and inspections
 - State and national electrical codes apply where Village code is silent
 - Noted a recent instance of an installation without permits prompted the need for regulation.
 - Board expressed support for proactive planning.
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Residential Units Above Commercial (B2 District)

- Proposed amendment would allow multiple dwelling units above commercial spaces rather than limiting to one owner-occupied unit.

Discussion:

- Focused on economic viability and flexibility for redevelopment projects.
 - No objections raised.
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8. Special Use Requests

545 N. Williams Street – Automotive Repair

- Applicant: R&L Auto Transport and Sales
 - Proposal: Repair and prepare vehicles for resale
 - Confirmed as consistent with existing industrial uses in the area
 - No objections from the Board.
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110 E. Margaret Street – Mixed-Use Development

- Proposal includes:
 - Restaurant (front)
 - Business/incubator space (rear)
 - Three residential units above

Discussion:

- Applicant explained need for multiple units to ensure financial feasibility.
 - Board discussed size and layout considerations.
 - Noted project contingent on approval of related zoning amendment.
 - Coordination with building and permitting officials confirmed.
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9. Mayor's Report

- Thanked Fire Department for community outreach and CPR training efforts.
- Acknowledged Public Works for storm cleanup response.

- Announced upcoming events and closures:
 - Easter event – March 28
 - Village Hall & Community Center closed – April 3
 - Encouraged residents to utilize Village communication channels.
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10. Old Business

- Trustee Piszewski made a request to recognize long-serving crossing guards with a proclamation.
 - Trustee Piszewski also commended the Police Department for increased visibility and traffic enforcement efforts.
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11. New Business

- None.
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12. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by Trustee Glaser, seconded by Trustee Kaye.

Motion passed unanimously via roll call vote.

Meeting adjourned at 6:34PM.

Nikki Kitakis Village Clerk