

**Minutes
Throop Borough Council
Monthly Meeting
Monday, December 18, 2000
following the 6:30 p.m. work session**

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Members of Council:

Joseph Keyasko-A
Vice President - Anthony Chrzan-P
George Marushock-A
Robert Mraz-P
James Barnick-P
President - Joseph Barone-P
Thomas Lukasewicz-P
Mayor - Stanley Lukowski-P
Controller - Daryl Menichetti-A
Solicitor - Attorney Louis Cimini-P
Treasurer - Lenore Dolan-P
Administrator/Secretary - Elaine Morrell-P

Announcements:

Throop Borough Officials and Employees would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy & Prosperous New Year.

- An Executive Session was held this evening at 6:00 p.m. with Attorney Doug Blazey and Frank Swit to discuss legal matters. An Executive Session followed to discuss personnel matters.
- Civic Center Dances - Friday, December 22nd from 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Grades K - 2 and Saturday, December 23rd from 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Grades 3 - 8 (Admission \$3.00)
- Senator Arlen Specter and Congressman Don Sherwood scheduled a Special Meeting tomorrow morning, December 19th at 9:00 a.m. at the Civic Center regarding the Marjol Battery Site. Several federal, state and local legislators will be in attendance along with representatives of EPA's Ombudsman's office. The public is encouraged to attend.
- Blood Drive, Friday, December 29th, 12 noon to 6:00 p.m. at the American Legion in Olyphant. **Please give the Gift of Life.**

Official comments:

Chrzan-Questioned the why the blood drives were scheduled close together, because he was not able to give again. The Mayor indicated the time period between giving blood is every eight weeks.

Audience comments on tonight’s agenda:

Dominick Rocco-Requested council to consider raising the allotment for the three hose companies from \$25,000.00 to \$30,000.00. With the extra \$5,000.00 Hose Co. #2 might be able to make it.

Barone-Mentioned they are in trouble.

Chrzan-Discussed not being able to give to all three companies and of hearing Old Forge was at a recent fire before one of our hose companies.

A discussion took place

Barnick-Asked that this should not be expected every year because there may be some years it would not be able to be done.

Rocco-Mentioned when you can do it, you do it. When you can’t, you can’t.

Lukasewicz-Agreed with Rocco and indicated you do it until you can’t do it.

Mayor-Spoke of the improvement/beautification that is going to be launched this year and it being needed.

Barone-Thanked John Stoffey for being Santa Claus at the Civic Center.

The bids were opened for “Air Conditioning” in the gymnasium at the Civic Center:

Name	Amount of Bid
The Heating People	\$ 38,950.00 No BB Att.
Antz Refrigeration	\$ 34,220.00 10% BB Att.

1. Motion by Barnick

Seconded by Lukasewicz

To refer the bids to the solicitor for review and to authorize the Civic Center to obtain 3 bids for mechanical engineer review.

All in favor

Motion carried

2. Motion by Chrzan

Seconded by Lukasewicz

To accept the treasurer's report, police reports, zoning report, landfill inspectors’ reports, minutes of the November 9th Public Meeting regarding the grant application for the South Valley Ave. Sewer Replacement Project, the November 9th, 21st, 29th Council Meetings and minutes of motions of the December 7th Special Marjol Meeting.

All in favor

Motion carried

Motion by Barnick

Seconded by Chrzan

The Sunny Day Fund CD # 802101 in the amount of \$265,716.46 plus 5.5 % interest matures on January 23, 2001 at the Pioneer American Bank, now known as Pennstar. To authorize the Controller to purchase a new Sunny Day Fund CD at the First National Community Bank, Dunmore for the total amount of maturity if they are offering the highest CD interest rate for a period of at least one year.

Morrell-What if they aren't offering 6.40% at that time in January?

Barnick-They better.

Chrzan-Take it out, put it somewhere else.

Morrell-Okay.

On the question:

Barnick-Just add in there if the rate is within the range.

7. Motion by Barnick

Seconded by Chrzan

Motion amended as follows:

The Sunny Day Fund CD # 802101 in the amount of \$265,716.46 plus 5.5 % interest matures on January 23, 2001 at the Pioneer American Bank, now known as Pennstar. To authorize the Controller to purchase a new Sunny Day Fund CD at the First National Community Bank, Dunmore for the total amount of maturity if they are offering the highest CD interest rate for a period of at least one year *at a rate of 6.40% or within the same range.* (Resolution # 40 - 2000)

All in favor

Motion carried

8. Motion by Barnick

Seconded by Chrzan

To authorize the controller to transfer (Budget Transfer only for the year 2000) \$338,763.06 - from G.L. # 01-436-68000 sanitary & storm sewers to G.L. # 01-480-45002 Marjol expense.

On the question:

Barnick-There's \$338,000.00 that Gould is ripping us off is the way I see it. We did the studies and everything else that should be going into this town for the streets and sewers.

Mayor-Is that what it is, \$338,000.00?

Morrell-Yes, it is.

Barnick-That's not counting the end of the month bills yet.

Barone-\$338,763.00.

Barnick-I feel confident we're going to have a victory in this other case, going to be a lot more.

Mayor-You know, we had nothing to do with it. There's no reason that we should be paying for this and we have to defend ourselves.

All in favor

Motion carried

Barnick-Every other town's got a tank, maybe we should get one and park it in front of there so when they come in and try to . . .

Chrzan-Jim . . .

Everyone spoke at once.

Morrell-We need a tank anyway. Dave Morrell asks for one constantly.

9. Motion by Barnick

Seconded by Lukasewicz

To adopt Throop Borough Ordinances # 1 through 5 of 2000 as follows, Ordinance # 1 - Re-enacting a tax on assessed valuation four mills, Ord # 2 - Wage tax 1 %,- Ord # 3 - Occupational tax \$10.00, Ord # 4 - Re-enacting a realty transfer tax one half of one percent, # 5 - Setting salaries and bonds relating to officials.

Ordinance # 1, the tax rate on assessed valuation of the Borough of Throop for the year 2001, shall be as follows, for general purposes, the sum of four (4) mills on each dollar of assessed valuation.

Ordinance # 2, the wage tax ordinance, originally enacted in 1947 and re-enacted every year thereafter, imposing a tax of one (1) percent on wages, commissions, etc. earned by the residents of the Borough of Throop, and also, on income earned in the Borough of Throop by non-residents of the Borough of Throop, with one half (½) of said tax to be distributed to the Mid Valley School District by the tax collecting agent designated by the Borough of Throop.

Ordinance # 3, the occupation tax, originally enacted in 1967, imposing a tax of ten (\$10) dollars per person gainfully employed in the Borough of Throop with five (\$5) of that tax to be distributed to the Mid Valley School District by the agent designated by the Borough of Throop for the collection of taxes.

Ordinance # 4, the realty transfer tax, originally enacted in 1968 and every year thereafter, imposing a tax of one-half (½) of one (1%) percent.

Ordinance # 5, the salaries and other compensation and the bonds of the borough officials be fixed as follows:

Council - \$156.25 per month/\$1,875.00 per year.

Mayor - \$208.3333 per month/\$2,500.00 per year.

Treasurer's bond - \$300,000.00 (Section 1106 of the Borough Code)

Controller's bond \$300,000.00 (Section 1061 of the Borough Code)

Tax Collector's bond \$521,405.00 (Section 804 & 1103 of the Borough Code)

All in favor

Motion carried

(Please note: The 2001 Budget includes the changes to the tentative budget that council read aloud at tonight's public work session, prior to this meeting. Changes were made to the civic center income, civic center director's salary, secretary/clerk wages, controller, treasurer, zoning officer, street commissioner, holiday decorations, and sanitary & storm sewers.)

10. Motion by Lukasewicz

Seconded by Chrzan

To adopt the Throop Borough's Budget for 2001.

On the question:

Barnick-I'll be voting for everything except for probably the, in the police department, the special police, I don't think we should, and all the part-time.

20. Motion by Barnick

Seconded by Chrzan

To ratify the Eleventh Draw-Down from the Interest Free Loan from Keystone Sanitary Landfill, Inc. in the amount of \$200,500.00.

All in favor

Motion carried

21. Motion by Barnick

Seconded by Chrzan

To approve application for payment # 2 to Adams Enterprises in the amount of \$27,103.04 for the Warsaw Playground Project as per the recommendations of Robert D. Bernosky, Engineer.

On the question:

Barnick-If you get a chance to ride by that park, it looks . . . I'm sure once the grass is there it's going to great.

Chrzan-Finally the kids have a place to play.

All in favor

Motion carried

Barnick-Excuse me, Mr. Chairman, before we get too far. Are you going to add this on as far as locking the parks and stuff like that.

Morrell-He ordered the keys, or got the keys.

Barnick-Yeah, but I mean open it and closing down like the other parks.

Chrzan-The police do that every morning right, Mayor?

Barone-Do the police do that, Mayor?

Chrzan-They'll continue to do that.

Barnick-I'm saying in that park now.

Mayor-Well, it'll have to be added.

Morrell-Dave Dozack got keys for that park this week. I don't know what the time schedule is on opening and closing though.

Chrzan-The same as the other ones . . .

Morrell-If it's going to be the same.

Barone-We'll open up the same and close it, we'll have to find out, probably close it early because it gets dark early, they don't have any lights.

Everyone spoke at once.

Barone-The Mayor will handle it.

22. Motion by Barnick

Seconded by Chrzan

To authorize payment to Amico Masonry for the sum of \$3,200.00 for the installation of a versa-lok retaining wall at 176 Brick Street. (The large oak tree and root system was removed at this area in conjunction with the Boulevard Project.)

On the question:

Barnick-I don't know . . .

Chrzan-Robbie said they're happy down there, right?

Barone-Yeah, we'll have to see with Robbie, let Robbie handle it and we'll see, we'll go from there.

All in favor

Motion carried

23. Motion by Barnick

Seconded by Chrzan

To authorize payment to PA Dept. of Labor & Industry - E for the sum of \$50.00 for the inspection of the elevator at the civic center.

On the question:

Chrzan-Why do we have to pay \$50.00?

Dolan (Lenore)-Inspection fee. It came in late, that's why it's on here. I didn't have it in with the items for payment. It just came in.

Chrzan-All right.

All in favor

Motion carried

24. Motion by Chrzan

Seconded by Barnick

To authorize payment to PACCAR Financial in the amount of \$17,848.11 for the 2nd lease payment on the 2000 Peterbilt Dump Truck. (Total of five payments)

Four in favor-Chrzan, Barnick, Lukasewicz, Barone

One abstain-Mraz

Motion carried

25. Motion by Barnick

Seconded by Chrzan

To grant permission to the Throop Booster Club to use the Washington Street Park and Pavilion for their Annual Cow Flop on Sunday, June 24th 2001.

All in favor

Motion carried

26. Motion by Chrzan

Seconded by Barnick

To sponsor the Annual Fireworks Display at the 2001 Annual Cow Flop on June 24th in the amount of \$5,000.00.

On the question:

Barnick-As long as they get something similar to what was there this last year.

Chrzan-I think that the last year was a really excellent display.

Morrell-It was great.

Chrzan-Compared to the year before.

All in favor

Motion carried

Council deleted the following motion from the printed agenda. They said it was not necessary to pass a motion. Robert Kalinoski, Street Commissioner can take care of this.

To authorize the DPW to salt the lot around the station of Throop Hose Co. # 1 when required by weather conditions.

Council deleted the following motion from the printed agenda.

To accept the roads and the utilities in Tiffany Estates and provide snow removal.

27. Motion by Barnick

Seconded by Chrzan

To request a release of liability from Tiffany Estates and provide Throop Borough services, garbage and snow removal.

All in favor

Motion carried

28. Motion by Barnick

Seconded by Chrzan

To approve the credit change order dated December 18, 2000 in regards to the Blvd. Project for the sum of -\$27,000,00. (Leeward Construction)

On the question:

Barnick-I know they're giving back \$27,000.00, I know they're giving it back but to remind them at the same time to send a thank you letter for the grading they did on the Tiffany Park down there. They did a nice job and that was just something they threw in. I hounded them for a couple of weeks or a couple of months and they did it.

All in favor

Motion carried

Motion by Chrzan

Seconded by Mraz

To grant Linde Enterprise an extension for completion of the Cambria Court Project for the final restoration of paving until May 31, 2001 as per the recommendations of Robert Bernosky, Engineer, and Robert Kalinoski, Street Commissioner.

On the question:

Lukasewicz-I'll be against it. When they came in here and we knew that we were starting the project late in the year, the gentleman from the company sat in the back of the room and said he'd have no problems completing the project this year. I don't want to take any liability for the borough (inaudible).

Barnick-I know we made the motion already but I'm going to ask him to do thirty days at a time. We may get some . . .

Lukasewicz-We may hit a good period where he could go in there and . . .

Barnick- . . . and they could finish this thing this year. Even next month, you know . . .

Everyone spoke at once. A discussion took place.

29. Motion by Chrzan

Seconded by Mraz

Motion Amended as follows:

To grant Linde Enterprise an extension for completion of the Cambria Court Project for the final restoration of paving *for every thirty days* until May 31, 2001 as per the recommendations of Robert Bernosky, Engineer and Robert Kalinoski, Street Commissioner.

Four in favor-Chrzan, Mraz, Barnick, Barone

One against-Any extension-Lukasewicz

Motion carried

30. Motion by Chrzan

Seconded by Barnick

To direct the solicitor to prepare an ordinance to change the name of the Throop Planning Agency to the Throop Planning Commission as per Marv Brotter (Planning Consultant).

All in favor

Motion carried

Barnick-I know there's different time limits and different, there's a whole lot that's got to be done with that ordinance (tape inaudible) commission. They're their own authority. They have their own spending authority, the whole works. It's only to develop the ordinance.

31. Motion by Chrzan

Seconded by Barnick

To hire Maria Pesavento as Monitor at the Civic Center.

All in favor

Motion carried

Barnick-We should try to get a couple more, too. I was talking to Jamie. He just can't get the other ones to cover the hours when he needs them. He's having a hard time scheduling people.

Chrzan-Jamie, do you have anybody else you want to put on?

Shevchik-No (inaudible).

32. Motion by Chrzan

Seconded by Lukasewicz

To allocate \$20,000.00 to the Throop Ambulance.

Barone-You have to remember if you use that ambulance (inaudible).

Chrzan-I hope I never need them.

All in favor

Motion carried

33. Motion by Barnick

Seconded by Chrzan

To provide \$5,000.00 additional from this year's budget to each Hose Company.

All in favor

Motion carried

Barnick-Just one thing, not to expect it each year.

Barone-Right.

34. Motion by Barnick

Seconded by Chrzan

To direct the solicitor to work out a one year extension with Adelphia Cable for the additional service.

All in favor

Motion carried

35. Motion by Barnick

Seconded by Chrzan

To authorize the President of Council to send a letter to the District Attorney's office requesting final closure in the Civic Center investigation.

All in favor

Motion carried

Council comments:

Barnick-Just a reminder to send a letter to Leeward for the grading done for the Bellman Street playground.

Audience comments:

Melanie Misko- Two months ago I came in about the skateboards, they said they were going to . . .

Lukasewicz-Look into the liability and if they do decide to put a skate park, look into other boroughs, etc. (Tape inaudible).

Dominick Rocco-Thanked council for raising the allotment for the three hose companies and for the \$5,000 and wished officials a Merry Christmas.

Matthew Cortazar, President of Ambulance-Thanked council for the donation of \$20,000.00. In addition it was mentioned in the work session about having a meeting again, whenever council wanted, sometime in January would be good.

Donna Barnick, 203 Adams Court-Questioned the Mayor if he made it a habit of signing his name to falsified letters, asked to verify his signature on a letter and questioned when this man was arrested, he was never arrested and it was falsified, along with a lot of other things that are going to be brought up in the open.

The tape was changed.

Lenore Dolan, Treasurer-Received a phone call from the D.A.'s office and mentioned Mr. Keyasko, Ms. Menichetti and Mr. Marushock were down there and they wanted to speak to the D.A., and then she felt that we should come down there so he picked the time and he picked the date. I just want to go on record that we're not going against your motion that you made that we were asked to go down and we will be there tomorrow.

Barnick-Indicated he would join them too.

Dolan-Apparently, their accusation is saying that the deficit is still going on, we're saying it's not. So he heard from them, apparently now he wants to hear from us. It's just for the record that I'm letting you know we're going.

Tape inaudible.

Dolan-I don't know, we just received a phone call from the D.A. this week. What time are we going down? Noon.

Barnick-I'm going to go down and I'm also asking the Chairman that an executive meeting be scheduled as soon as possible with the police department before I start taking out everything that's going on. Got to do it soon.

Barone-Neil's going to be off . . .

Barnick-There's going to be some major changes that I want to see.

Barone-Neil's going to be off for two weeks.

Everyone spoke at once, Barone mentioned he would schedule it.

Shevchik-Ms. Menichetti, Mr. Marushock, and Mr. Keyasko, did they turn this into council? Did they, was it approved that they could go down to the D.A. and make these accusations? Did all of council agree to this?

Chrzan/Barnick-No.

Everyone spoke at once. A discussion took place about the case being closed and/or unresolved.

Barone-Asked Elaine to get the letter out for him tomorrow and he would discuss what to put in the letter.

Morrell-Questioned council with regard to wages, just start them in January as is usually done, the January payroll as per the budgeted amounts, the increases, as she did in the past?

Council responded yes.

The meeting was adjourned.

Minutes by Christina Sullivan, Assistant Secretary

Elaine Morrell, Administrator/Secretary