

**Minutes
Throop Borough Council
Monthly Meeting
Monday, January 27, 2003
7:00 p.m.**

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Members Of Council:

Anthony Chrzan - **P**

James Barnick - **P**

Vice President- Thomas Lukasewicz - **P**

President-James Mellody Jr. - **P**

George Marushock - **A**

Daryl Menichetti - **P**

Joseph Barone - **P**

Mayor - Stanley Lukowski - **P**

Solicitor - Attorney Louis Cimini - **P**

Treasurer - Lenore Dolan - **P**

Administrator/Secretary - Elaine Morrell - **P**

Announcements:

An Executive Session was held this evening at 6:45 p.m. to discuss personnel matters

Ed Karpovich, Lackawanna County Treasurer, assigned a representative to sell Dog Licenses at the Municipal Building on Mon., Feb. 3, 2002 from 10:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Ernie Cicilioni, Lackawanna County Redevelopment Authority, will hold a Public Hearing regarding the 2003 CDBG Project, the Meade St. Sewer Project, on Thurs., Feb. 20th at 6:30 p.m. The monthly work session begins at 7:00 p.m.

Council reviewed & discussed the Packet that was distributed this evening.

Audience comments on tonight's agenda:

Frances Hart, 1002 Ridge St. - Made council aware she not see why her family had to suffer for lack of action on the part of council many years ago (regarding vacating Clay Street, behind her house).She asked what, if anything, council was going to do. For over ten years she thought that was her 25' and she thought it was a really a "gyp".

Council: Chrzan then discussed giving or selling the land, 10' or 15', down at the Bellman Street Playground area. He thought there were problems over it and the borough had nothing to gain by keeping it. Barnick thought the borough could not sell it *and Chrzan reiterated to give it to them and the borough could never put a road there. A discussion took place with regard to vacating that land.*

Gail Ercoli, C.C. Director - Asked if council had any questions for her and stated she was in favor of Jennifer Gongliewski being Acting Assistant Director while Maria (Pesavento) was out on maternity leave. Barnick indicated he wanted to see the staff's personal phone calls kept down over at the civic center, in general. He also said some programs should be started for baseball and Gail responded that the gym was very busy and baseball would start after basketball was over. The Mayor had questions about adult basketball and Gail indicated the leagues brought in good revenue. Barnick couldn't see starting a pre-school/before school program right now with the budget situation with the borough. He didn't care if it she said it would make money or not, it was a new program and didn't think a chance should be taken at the present time.

Larry Hartshorn, 142 Dimmick St. - Questioned Motion #16 (to rent a bucket truck from Altec Industries at a rate of \$400 for one week and asked if we had our own bucket truck. (The bucket truck was currently out of order and could not be used. The vehicle ran, the bucket did not work and was dangerous. The Christmas lights needed to be taken down). *A discussion took place.* Chrzan mentioned he spoke to the Council President and Street Commissioner in Olyphant and had asked if they could borrow their truck or have their workers come up and take the decorations down. He thought a letter should be sent to request and they would check into it. A discussion took place.

1. Motion by Chrzan

Seconded by Lukasewicz

To accept the zoning report, landfill inspectors reports and the minutes of the December 30, 2002 Council Meeting.

All in favor

Motion carried

Lenore Dolan, Treasurer read the treasurer's reports and the totals of the paid and unpaid monthly bills.

2. Motion by Chrzan

Seconded by Barnick

To accept the treasurer's reports as read or posted and to pay the monthly bills against the borough.

Checkbook balance as 01/28/03	\$ 777,301.03
If all items for payment approved, balance will be	\$ 729,201.32
If all motions (\$1,784.50) are approved, balance will be	\$ 727,416.82

Unpaid bills:	\$48,099.71
Paid bills:	140,282.49
Grand total (As of Jan. 17, '03)	188,382.20

Keystone Landfill Credit	\$5,500.97
Home Program	10,820.62
Revenue Report (Total Revenue)	\$750,674.91

On the question:

Barnick: That's not including Doug Blazey's bills, right?

Dolan: No. The current bill is \$16,027.10 and the previous bill is \$11,201.01. *A discussion took place, Barnick mentioned the \$700,000 loan payment that was due.* **Barnick:** Just getting back to some of the bills. **I voted against the insurance and I will voted against it again.** Mentioned a counter offer for the police (contract negotiations) and the way he viewed it, it looked like they were getting a compact, while you sit up there, well not me and not me, other members on the board sit here with the Cadillac package. Sorry, you lead by example and that's not an example. You've got to make a loan payment. I don't know what you're going to do about it.

All in favor except as noted, Barnick

Motion carried

3. Motion by Chrzan

Seconded by Lukasewicz

To pay all the employees of Throop Borough.

All in favor

Motion carried

4. Motion by Chrzan

Seconded by Barnick

To accept the correspondence as read or posted.

On the question:

Barnick: You know that you got your check from the County?

Chrzan: Thanks to Barnick and Louie Cimini.

Barnick: No, Louie didn't have nothing to do with that. *A short discussion took place.* We've got this Adelpia thing and I know we were trying to look at this franchise thing and everything else but I don't think you realize that franchise fees are not being taken off of your movies that you order and stuff like that. I don't know if you're all aware of that or not. This is only on the

basic cable, not on anything extra. It's not on HBO, Cinemax, and it's a lot of revenue that's being lost because our contract doesn't specifically state it. *The Mayor mentioned Adelphia raising their rates again. The third time in three years.*

All in favor

Motion carried

ADMINISTRATOR'S FINANCIAL REPORTS:

5. Motion by Chrzan

Seconded by Lukasewicz

To accept the Fund Statement & Budgeted Revenue & Expense Statement for December, 2002.

General Fund Checking Account	\$237,291.06
General Fund Petty Cash	200.00
Payroll Checking Account	1,004.44
Civic Center Account	250.00
Civic Center Petty Cash	250.00
Sunny Day Fund CD's	2,229,817.93
Home Program State Grant	9,660.62
Civic Center After School Program	500.00
South Valley Ave. Grant	10,363.85
Warsaw Playground	28,109.94
Liquid Fuels Account	67,547.64
Grand Total	\$2,584,995.48

All in favor

Motion carried

6. Motion by Chrzan

Seconded by Barone

To ratify the purchase of a Sunny Day Fund CD in the amount of \$44,199.00 at the FNCB for one year at a rate of 1.99%. (This is 10% of the quarterly host municipality fee.)

On the question:

Barnick: I thought this was automatic.

Dolan: It is.

Morrell: I'm just ratifying the amount so you know.

All in favor

Motion carried

7. Motion by Chrzan

Seconded by Barnick

To approve payment in the amount of \$1,784.50 to Pumping Solutions for repairs to the Vaughn St. Pump Station.

On the question:

Barnick: This is one reason I'm pushing so hard for the Eddy Creek Sewer Line. If we can get rid of that pumping station - it's a project well worth it.

All in favor

Motion carried

8. Motion by Chrzan

Seconded by Barone

To authorize Frederick C. Spott & Associates as the engineer on the 2003 CDBG Project, the Meade St. Sewer Project, and to prepare an estimate on the project as required by Lackawanna County Redevelopment Authority.

All in favor

Motion carried

9. Motion by Chrzan

Seconded by Barone

To authorize Frederick C. Spott & Assoc. to complete the PA DEP Title 25, Chapter 94 - 2002 Wasteload Management Report that is due by February 7, 2003 at the Lackawanna River Basin Sewer Authority.

On the question:

Barnick: Did Robbie (Kalinowski) used to do this?

Morrell: Yes. You need flows, you need the linear feet of lines and the flows. That's something that I can't do. I'm going to have to get that from Spott.

Barnick: You've got to get it from Spott? We don't have the amount of line we have in this borough?

Menichetti: I thought we were going to look at last years.

Morrell: New line. I did look at last years but I can't tell what the linear feet of line that flows through any new projects this year.

Barnick: It's new line, right? Not repaired line or replaced line?

Morrell: Yes, it's both, new and/or. There's a question on repairs and replacement.

Barnick: So they increased the size. That's about it, right? I just can't see him going out there.

Morrell: Well, I don't know if he has to go out. I thought maybe he can look at, if he has specs or what he did he could give the amounts.

Five in favor - Chrzan, Lukasewicz, Menichetti, Barone, Melody

One against - Barnick

Motion carried

Motion #10 was tabled, as follows:

10. Motion by Chrzan

Seconded by Lukasewicz

To table the following motion:

To accept Pennsylvania Municipal Pension Services (Michael Cummings) new contract for the Administration of the Non-Uniform Pension Plan at a cost of \$3,250.00 and to pay the first quarterly payment in the amount of \$833.33 from the assets of the plan.

All in favor

Motion tabled

Motion #11 was tabled, as follows:

11. Motion by Lukasewicz

Seconded by Chrzan

To table the following motion:

To authorize David Dozack to operate the snow plow and/or salt the roads if it becomes necessary in accordance with the rest time as recommended by his physical therapist.

Lukasewicz: And along with the table of the motion, that he be told not to operate any of that equipment and to relay to him council believe it's in his best interest not to operate any equipment at this time. A discussion took place.

All in favor

Motion tabled

12. Motion by Chrzan

Seconded by Barnick

To join in the appeal with the Mid Valley School District of the Lackawanna County's assessment of Keystone Sanitary Landfill, Inc.

A discussion took place.

864 acres reported - the permit 714.39

Menichetti: It's already in appeal in the courts. What is our part in all of this?

All in favor

Motion carried

13. Motion by Chrzan **Seconded by Barone**

To authorize Jennifer Gongliewski to fill in for Maria Pesavento as assistant director at the same rate of pay, when Maria is on maternity leave.

All in favor **Motion carried**

14. Motion by Chrzan **Seconded by Barone**

To appoint Mark Urso as part time temporary help to work with the DPW at a rate of \$9.00 per hour, on an as needed basis.

Five in favor - Chrzan, Lukasewicz, Menichetti, Barone, Melody
One abstain - Barnick **Motion carried**

15. Motion by Barone **Seconded by Chrzan**

To send a letter to the Teamsters Local 229 regarding the DPW Union Contract regarding Schedule A - Wages. This section only expires March 23, 2003.

On the question:

Note: The tape was changed here. Barnick: Indicated he wanted the insurance included.

All in favor except as noted, Barnick **Motion carried**

16. Motion by Chrzan **Seconded by Lukasewicz**

To rent a Bucket Truck for one week from Altec Industries at a rate of \$400.00 for the week but if the borough can obtain Olyphant Borough's Bucket Truck free of charge, the borough would use Olyphant's truck.

All in favor **Motion carried**

17. Motion by Barone **Seconded by Chrzan**

To accept the proposal from Central Clay Products for the 36" pipe for the South Valley Avenue Project at a cost of \$3,668.46.

All in favor **Motion carried**

18. Motion by Barnick

Seconded by Chrzan

To direct Atty. Blazey to bring the zoning matter to an end.

All in favor

Motion carried

19. Motion by Chrzan

Seconded by Barnick

To advertise a proposed Ordinance to vacate Clay Street, between Ridge Street and Martarano Drive.

On the question:

Barone: If we vacate that now, what are we going to do with those people down on Pendel Street, behind Pendel Street? Are we going to open that up so those people can get out?

Barnick: That wasn't a street. *A discussion took place.*

Menichetti: Why don't we just give them permission to use that property? *Inaudible.*

Chrzan: Well, my argument is the land is useless to us. We can't do nothing with it.

Menichetti: You're right, Tony, it is.

Chrzan: Either sell it to them or give it to them - give it away, what's the big deal?

Barnick: You're going to advertise for an Ordinance to Vacate. In the meantime, have the engineer look at all the plans, the sewer plans, around there. Make sure there's no sewer line that will ever have to go through there and that we could never proceed.

Chrzan: Well, if we have to, we get a right of way to go through there, right?

Barnick: Do you really think you'd get a right through there?

Chrzan: I mean if there was a sewer problem or something and we have to go through. We'd get an easement, right? *Few speaking at once.*

All in favor

Motion carried

20. Motion by Chrzan

Seconded by Barone

To pay Elliott, Reihner, Siedzikowski & Egan for their December, 2002 invoice in the amount of \$11,201.01.

Five in favor - Chrzan, Lukasewicz, Menichetti, Barone, Mellody

One against - Barnick

Motion carried

Barone: Would not bring the motion on the floor tonight with regard to the property down by the Bellman Street Playground. He would wait until spring so council could go down and look at it.

Mayor Lukowski: Captain Repchick requested some of the grant money that was secured from Senator Mellow's office to purchase needed police materials. *Barnick indicated the grant was not received yet.*

Barnick: One point I'd like to make. I wish you would have provided me a copy of the negotiations before you gave it to the police. I would have liked to review them, you know.

Audience Comments:

Larry Hartshorn, 140 Dimmick Street - Asked if the \$16,000 bill for Atty. Blazey was for the Zoning Board Hearing with regard to Gould. *Morrell explained it was a combined bill. Some of it was for zoning, the challenge to EPA and also the lawsuit.* Mr. Hartshorn commented on the cost for council members health insurance.

Barnick: Just for the record, I'm not included.

Larry Hartshorn, Jr. - Wanted to know if council looked at the recent employment applications. He was laid off until the middle of March and wondered why he wasn't considered for the temporary position. He said this is the fourth time he tried to get a job here. He discussed the experience he has. Mr. Hartshorn also commented on fence that was damaged by Leeward.

Motion to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned.

Elaine Morrell, Administrator/Secretary

Minutes by:

Christina Sullivan, Asst. Secretary