

**Minutes
Throop Borough Council
Monday, July 10th, 2017
Monthly Work Session/Meeting**

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

“God Bless Our Troops and the Coalition”

ROLL CALL:

Members of Council:

John Musewicz - P

Jim Barnick - P

Rich Kucharki, **President - P**

Charlene Tomasovitch - P

Vince Tanana - P

Wayne Williams - P

Bob Magliocchi, **Vice President - A**

Solicitor - Louis A. Cimini - P

Mayor - Frank Shimkus - P

Assistant Treasurer - Lenore Dolan - P

Secretary - Renee O'Malley - P

Chief Clerk/Treasurer - Robin Galli - P

Announcements:

* An executive session was held Thursday, July 6th, 2017 at 5:45 p.m. to discuss personnel matters.

* A Public Hearing will be held on July 31st, 2017 at 6:00 pm for Burke Stone's Citizen Request for an amendment to the zoning ordinance.

Work Session/Meeting Schedule:

* The July monthly work session/meeting will be held Monday, July 31st, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.

* The August mid-month work session/meeting will be held Monday, Aug. 14th, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.

* The August monthly work session/meeting will be held Monday, Aug. 28th, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.

Audience comments on tonight's agenda:

Dave Karr, Meade St: Questioned the purchase of an additional planter for the corner of Sanderson and Dunmore St. And also the purchase of 2 dozen more Neighborhood Watch signs (Charles, George and Center).

Kucharski asked that Galli talk to Robert regarding both and also the cost of both.

Concerned with sight issue if a planter is there.

Trudy Delawder would like one for in front of building 6 in Memorial Drive. So will have one going in and in the middle.

BID OPENING: THROOP CIVIC CENTER EMERGENCY GENERATOR

Cost Estimate: \$103,253.00

| BIDDER | AMOUNT | BID BOND/ CERTIFIED CHECK |
|---|---------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Joyce Electrical Inc. 333 Second Street Eynon, PA 18403 | \$172,000.00 | X |
| Richard Mellow Corp 805 Enterprise Street Dickson City, PA 18519 | \$114,700.00 | X |

1. Motion by Musewicz

Seconded by Tomasovitch

To accept the bids received for the Throop Civic Center Emergency Generator and to award the bid to the lowest, most responsible bidder with favorable recommendations of the Solicitor and Street Commissioner.

All in favor

Motion carried

BID OPENING: 2017 BITUMINOUS PAVING PROJECT

Cost Estimate: \$275,000.00

| BIDDER | AMOUNT | BID BOND/ CERTIFIED CHECK |
|--|---------------|--------------------------------------|
| American Asphalt Paving Co 500 Chase Road Shavertown, PA 18708 | \$326,398.95 | X |
| New Enterprise Stone & Lime Co., Inc P.O. Box 280 Clifford, PA 18413 | \$318,016.75 | X |

2. Motion by Musewicz

Seconded by Tanana

To accept the bids received for the 2017 Bituminous Paving Project and to award the bid to the lowest, most responsible bidder with favorable recommendations of the Engineer, Solicitor and Street Commissioner.

All in favor

Motion carried

3. Motion by Barnick

Seconded by Musewicz

To accept Ann Marie Stoffey's notice of retirement from Throop Civic Center effective July 1st, 2017.

All in favor

Motion carried

4. Motion by Musewicz

Seconded by Tomasovitch

To authorize council president to execute the agreement between Throop Borough and Sikora Brothers Paving, an agreement where Sikora Brothers agrees to reimburse Throop in the amount of \$387,906.97 immediately upon receipt of funds from Lackawanna County for the Charles Street Project.

On the question:

Barnick Asked how we came to making this mistake in the first place. We were supposed to pay the county right?

Kucharski: Good question.

Tanana: The county was supposed to pay the contractor for everything but we have been paying. An oversight. Now we know what the issue is and we can be more cognitive of it in the future when we are dealing with CDBG. They used to reimburse us.

All in favor

Motion carried

5. Motion by Musewicz

Seconded by Tanana

To approve application #1 in the amount of \$236,768.25 from Sikora Brothers Paving Inc. for the Charles St Storm & Sanitary Sewer Project and forward to Lackawanna County for processing.

All in favor

Motion carried

6. Motion by Musewicz

Seconded by Tanana

To authorize payment # 2 in the amount of \$175,554.88 to Sikora Brothers Paving Inc. for the Charles St. Storm & Sanitary Sewer Project pending Sikora's receipt of \$236,768.25 from Lackawanna County DCED and payment to Throop Borough in the amount of \$387,906.97.

All in favor

Motion carried

7. Motion by Musewicz Seconded by Tanana

To adopt Resolution #7 of 2017, a resolution reappointing Anthony Amico as a member of the Throop Borough Planning Agency for a four year term expiring July 10, 2021.

All in favor Motion carried

8. Motion by Tanana Seconded by Musewicz

To adopt Resolution #8 of 2017, a resolution reappointing Thomas Carr as a member of the Throop Borough Planning Agency for a four year term expiring July 10, 2021.

All in favor Motion carried

9. Motion by Musewicz Seconded by Tanana

To reduce the interest rate used to value the costs and liabilities under the Police and Non Uniform Pension Plans to 7.0% for the 2018 Actuarial Valuation Report.

**All in favor, Tomasovitch
abstained on the Non Uniform Motion carried**

10. Motion by Tanana Seconded by Barnick

To allow Crush Travel Softball team to use the girls softball field for practices only provided the certificates of insurance are provided.

All in favor Motion carried

11. Motion by Musewicz **Seconded by Tomasovitch**

To accept the proposal received from Mayo for stripping the crosswalks at a cost of \$8,287.00.

All in favor **Motion carried**

12. Motion by Tanana **Seconded by Williams**

To put out an RFP for engineering services for the Borough.

All in favor **Motion carried**

13. Motion by Tomasovitch **Seconded by Williams**

To have summer hours at the Civic Center. Closing no earlier than 7:00 pm until September 1st unless there is something going on.

On the question:

Barnick asked if it has to be 7 or can it follow the summer schedule that is set.

Tomasovitch: Nothing before 7.

Barnick: Even if nobody is there?

Kucharski: I think the child care is there until 6:30.

Tomasovitch: I don't care if it's on Saturday and Sunday.

Conversation took place for when summer hours end.

All in favor **Motion carried**

14. Motion by Tomasovitch **Seconded by Williams**

To advertise for a full time Assistant Director for the Civic Center, without benefits, at a rate of \$12.58/hour.

All in favor **Motion carried**

15. Motion by Musewicz

Seconded by Tanana

To honor Mark Urso's request to be reclassified as an unskilled laborer.

All in favor

Motion carried

Official Comments:

Tanana questioned the civic center summer hours affecting the seniors on Tuesday nights.

Galli: They will stay open with the Seniors there.

Tomasovitch added not to close before 7:00 pm & to use their discretion.

Trudy Delawder questioned the Neighborhood Watch meeting nights.

Tomasovitch: They will use their discretion.

Len Petroliaj, Sanderson St.: The \$200,000.00 for the church, does that include Gombar's House?

Kucharski: Yes.

Petroliaj: or is it \$240,000.00

Kucharski: That's what we had into it approximately.

Petroliaj: These guys talking about buying/developing it are they going to do something for the seniors in the basement?

Mayor Shimkus: ----- reduce the cost as a payback to us. They still may.

Petroliaj: What are you thinking about getting for it? What's a fair number to get back to the people?

\$200,000.00

All talking at once.

Barnick: depending on if Robbie can stop the ----- then it is going to cost us more overhead. So really whatever it has cost us to buy and all the overhead at this point with the DPW, snow removal.

Kucharski: With respect to the Senior center I spoke to a few seniors in my neighborhood and they said they wouldn't want to be in the basement. They like the windows and the wide opening and the current location.

Petroliaj spoke of the parking. Fire trucks.

Kucharski questioned if wanted a motion for the church.

Attorney Cimini: On hold.

Kucharski: About the Zoning proposals. Where are we at with that?

Attorney Cimini: Trying to get them all in on the same date. Probably the end of July.

Audience Comments:

Andy Hegedus, Center St.: So we are in this game 5 years with the church?

Kucharski: 2014

Hegedus: The whole idea was about parking right? The Borough needed to do something to get parking so they acquired that piece of property.

Barnick: That's not why they did it though.

Kucharski: That was one of the main reasons.

Hegedus: So after all this time now just to re-coop \$200,000.00, which is a lot of money I get that, we've created all this anx and speculation that this is going to happen here at the 11th hour with the wrecking ball to just say for \$200,000.00 you are playing with the house money now. You have somebody that is interested in the property you've heard the street commissioner say just off the top of his head the variance issues that are going to be involved with parking let alone PennDOT giving you access to Sanderson St to get in and out of the parking lot which is a coin flip at this point. Why wouldn't you consider having this developer talk to the person that lives behind the civic center and look at a fair market value acquisition of that property playing with their money now. The borough has the money in the game. Always remember you can't be a little pregnant. You are in this game so now you have \$200,000.00 invested in it. You don't have any debt, you own it free and clear and now this person comes along and says we want to do this. So why wouldn't you formulate a plan with this developer to talk to this house that is directly behind the civic center that is 50 feet wide. Probably a 50x180 lot which is most of the lots in the borough where you would have parking for 30 cars plus and sell them that building at this point.

Barnick: It's not for sale.

Hegedus: Everybody has a number.

Kucharski: It was Gross's house. That house

Hegedus: You are right back where you were with no parking then.

Tanana: No. The parking lot is not part of the sale.

Hegedus. Ok.

Tanana: It is separate deeds Andy.

Hegedus: Ok. I get that. We'll see. I respect that.

Tanana: We are going to keep the parking lot. Will not give that parking lot up.

Len Petroliaj: As long as you get the people's money back.

All talking at once.

Hegedus: There is a value in the property. No question about it. The tax rolls. What are the taxes going to be \$1000.00/year? It would take us 200,000 years to get the money back. I'm open to suggestions but nobody is formulating the plan.

Kucharski: Well the plan was, council voted to solicit bids to demolish the property. This was a last minute issue that came up.

Hegedus: So now when you advertise it for bids it could be you have to advertise it for a public hearing right Lou? To sell it?

Attorney Cimini: No

Hegedus: Just a public meeting?

Attorney Cimini: No you advertise for bids, people go look at it and submit a bid.

Hegedus: Right. How long does that take?

Attorney Cimini: 30 days? You set the time. In addition to the 200 you have to add on the

demolition of that building so now you are going to be in
Hegedus: Listen I am not talking about knocking it down, I'm saying you have \$200,000.00 that's gone. Now you have somebody that is interested in giving you money. Why wouldn't you - Do you think they may want to - If they needed the \$200,000.00, do you think the Keller's might want to give you the house for \$200,000.00? And then the parking lot problem is solved. What happens if somebody comes in at 250 or 275 and they want the parking lot or they need the parking lot.

Barnick: You advertise just the properties not the parking lot.

Hegedus: It is going to just keep delaying 11th hour stuff.

Attorney Cimini: It's only 11th hour because Council passed a motion to demolish it. It's not that there's a wrecking ball waiting out there now.

All talking at once.

Hegedus: It hasn't even been advertised yet.

Petroliaj: Somebody had to call him. Somebody stirred the pot.

Kucharski: He has been interested all along.

Attorney Cimini: Art Russo was days away from buying the church. Before the Borough. He had an agreement of sale, they had it surveyed, they had a closing date. He in the 11th hour decided not to buy it.

Mayor Shimkus: And he went to Joe Cerminaro and said I am not interested but you work with me are you interested? I stirred the pot back when I was looking for some way to save it and said what if we gave a low price but you have to give us a senior center.

Petroliaj: Whatever is best for the people.

Hegedus: They may want to sell and you have the parking resolved.

The meeting was adjourned.

Meeting minutes by Renee O'Malley
Borough Secretary