

**Minutes
Throop Borough Council
Monday, March 13th, 2017
Monthly Work Session/Meeting 6:30 p.m.**

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

“God Bless Our Troops and the Coalition”

ROLL CALL:

Members of Council:

John Musewicz - P

Vince Tanana - P

Rich Kucharki, **President - P**

Charlene Tomasovitch - P

David Repchick, **Vice President - A**

Wayne Williams - P

Bob Magliocchi - P

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:

Work Session/Meeting Schedule:

- * Special Work Session Monday, March 20, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. for Strategic Planning for Projects.
- * The March monthly work session/meeting will be held Monday, March 27th, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.
- * The April mid-month work session/meeting will be held Monday, April 10th, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.
- * The April monthly work session/meeting will be held Monday, April 24th, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.

Kucharski spoke to Mayor Shimkus regarding grants.

Mayor Shimkus spoke to Joyce Hatala, contacted congressmen Cartwright office, Haggerty's office, Governors office & 6 other agencies just see what is out there.

Audience comments on tonight's agenda:

Denise Brown, Phillips St: Questioned what time on Monday.

Kucharski: 6:30 pm.

9. Motion by Musewicz

Seconded by Tanana

To advertise for the request of proposals for a re-do of relevant Borough Ordinances including the Zoning Ordinance, Zoning Maps, Sub Division & Land Development Ordinance and Comprehensive Plan.

Audience Comments:

Denise Brown: Can you translate that.

Attorney Cimini: The subdivision & land development ordinance was last done in 1990. The zoning ordinance is 2000. There are a lot of requests from planning and zoning that they are running into a lot of issues because the ordinance is so outdated. It doesn't address a lot of current issues that just weren't relevant when they were prepared. Jessup is going through a similar process now. They just awarded a contractor to redo their ordinance.

Brown: What type of issues are we looking to include with zoning?

Cimini: One that keeps coming up is that there is nothing in the ordinance with townhouses, cell towers.

Brown: So it's a generic ordinance we are looking at or very specific?

Cimini: A complete redo of the ordinance so it is relevant and addresses current issues. MS4 and Storm water.

Kucharski: Very comprehensive process too.

Brown: How is the public involved during this process?

Cimini: There will be public hearings, probably quite a few.

Jim Barnick, 807 George St: Really needed. Last done in 1994 - It's outdated. Even to come down to fences. It will take some time with appeals & hearings. A long time.

Bob Kokinda, 810 Goodman St, Zoning Hearing Board: All classes we have attended require a 10 year refresh of your zoning ordinances. Scranton is going through it now. Also will have cell phone booster towers on their telephone poles. There are a lot of technology changes coming forward that we can't address. We are also missing out on some business opportunities because it is difficult to put a light manufacturing/assembly type business in the Borough of the existing codes. We've been doing the best we can with the Ordinances as they read but they do need to be updated.

All in favor

Motion carried

Audience Comments:

Joe Tropiak, 118 Phillips St: Questioned the demolition of the buildings that were talking about. Kucharski: 520, 522, and the church. First had to do a study for asbestos present in the properties. There would have to be remediation before actually demolished.

Tropiak: On the church, still going to demolish?

Kucharski: At this point we are actually putting out bids and looking at what's there. It is just going to be an option.

Magliocchi: No matter what we do I think we will have to remove it. Cheaper to remove it now.

Tropiak: The church should not be demolished. It is our heritage in this town. It should be considered as maybe a viable property and can be found out for financing as a historical site and make it a historical site. That's what should be done with it. Doesn't see why it has to be it was led by the previous council members to tear it down without even thinking about it. There was no really concern from the leaders. It shouldn't be. It is our church it is the towns church it is the heritage of the town and nobody understands that. When you start hearing about demolishing that is the first step to do it. It was our money. The towns money. I talk about it because I come to the meetings. I don't miss meetings. Very few. That should not be.

Kucharski replied that at this point that is a last resort but since we are putting out bids at least we would know because it would be a potential option but I don't think there is a lot of consensus on this council. I don't speak for everybody but at this point a very last option. Actually there is someone that is interested in it.

Attorney Cimini: At some point you should consider advertising to sell the property if this council isn't going to do anything with it. Get an appraiser and get a fair market value of it and then advertise it for sale. Even if this person wants it we have to put it out for bid.

Kucharski: When we do the strategic planning my number 1 issue is going to aggressively market that church this year and have something concrete done this year. Ideally I would like to see that building re-purposed into something useful.

Neil Furiosi, 420 Ryan St: Welcomed Frank Shimkus as new Mayor. Sure he will do well. Glad to see Wayne Williams as a councilman.

Jim Barnick, George St: When purchased the church was any disclosures of asbestos? Any notification? Did you consider the cost when purchasing? The costs in overhead must be enormous with the DPW doing the sidewalks and the grass and the water run off. Pipes running everywhere to get the water out of there. Jacking up the porch now.

Tanana thought there would've been an inspection before.

Kucharski agrees with him. That's why have to really do something one way or the other.

Tomasovitch: 8 applicants for full time Police Officer. Letters went out and the test is April 29th at the civic center. Promotion is not even being talked about.

Williams: Spoke of the dikes getting inspected in a certain amount of time. Anyone know what's going on with it?

Tanana: It was the flood plain that changed because of federal flood map changed. To certify the dikes we would have to hire our own company. When Robert looked into it, it could be millions of dollars.

Williams: Do you think that is something that we need to look at because these flood plains are going to change.

Tanana: The flood plain is going to go up to Brick Street. Significantly change. The whole Boulevard is basically a flood plain in accordance to _____.

Joe Tropiak, Phillips St: Sanderson Street is falling apart.

Tomasovitch: It's a state road.

Tropiak: The whole road is a mess. It needs to be paved.

Kucharski: Wanted sidewalks in there but then the Rinaldi project.

Tomasovitch: Robert can probably get in touch with somewhere up there.

Tanana: Can send a request.

Tomasovitch/Attorney Cimini: Make a request.

Magliocchi: Hire summer help next meeting.

Tanana: questioned if the no hunting signs were posted at the 48 acres.

Williams: Last year there was an issue. Robert Kalinoski went up and posted signs.

Tanana: There are large turkeys walking around up there. People are concerned. Before it becomes a problem. As long as it's posted we're fine.

The meeting was adjourned.

Meeting minutes by Renee O'Malley
Borough Secretary