

CATAWISSA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
RE-ORGANIZATION  
MONDAY, JANUARY 4, 2016 – 6:30 P.M.

OATH OF OFFICE:

CALL TO ORDER:

- The meeting was called to order by Mayor Frank “Jeff” Achy.
- The pledge of allegiance was recited.

ROLL CALL:

- Present were: Connie Benware, Doug Krum, Joe Benware, Gary Steinruck, Jay Roberts, Linda Kashner, Barb Reese, Borough Manager Roger Nuss, Mayor Frank “Jeff” Achy.
- Attorney Anthony McDonald was absent.

NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

- Mayor Achy called for a nomination for Council President.
- Linda Kashner nominated Gary Steinruck as Council President Doug Krum seconded the nomination. No other nominations were offered. All aye.
- Barb Reese nominated Linda Kashner as Vice President of Council. Gary Steinruck seconded the nomination. No other nominations were offered. All aye.
- Linda Kashner nominated Barb Reese as President Pro Tempore seconded by Doug Krum. No other nominations were offered. All aye.

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- No one spoke at this time.

CODE ENFORCEMENT:

- Code Enforcement Officer, James Haney reported that during the month of December the code office issued 9 (nine) letters, door hangers, and verbal warnings. No building permits were issued.
- Mr. Haney contacted the Prescotts, owners of the Opera House, regarding the wall behind the Opera House. Mrs. Prescott refuses to make any repairs to the wall. Mr. Haney will contact Larson Design, Borough Engineers, to inspect the wall for safety.
- The condominium project is stalled while waiting for the bank to correct some errors made.
- Barb Reese asked for an update regarding the demolition of the building next to the train tracks. Mr. Haney explained that the land has been sold to Norfolk Southern Railways and he is attempting to contact them for information.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- The Columbia/Montour Boroughs Association Meeting will be held Thursday, January 14, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. at the Capital Restaurant.
- A list of PSAB Webinars and classes have been provided to council.

**WATER:**

- Joe Benware made the motion seconded by Doug Krum to reappoint Howard Sodergren to the Water Authority Board for the period of January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2020. All aye.

**BOROUGH MANAGER REPORT:**

- Manager, Roger Nuss provided a summary report of the activities of the Borough Employees for the month of December.
- Roger is working with General Code to bring the Code book up to date.
- Mr. Nuss gave a summary report of his activities for the month.
- Linda Kashner asked if the Code book will be finished this year. Roger explained that the book will not be finished this year.

**POLICE:**

- Police Chief, Joshua Laidacker reported during the month of December the department responded to 234 (two hundred thirty-four) calls for service, as reported by the Columbia County Communications Center.
- The 2010 SUV is still experiencing transmission issues.
- The winter tires have been installed on the needed vehicles.
- Officer Messa attended Taser training. Officer Hayes and Roote attended NIK field drug test kit and drug interdiction training.
- Officer evaluations have begun.

**MAYOR:**

- Mayor Achy requests that the “No Parking for School bus” sign be removed in front of Weis. He would also like the 2 hour parking on Fisher Ave. removed.
- Doug Krum made the motion to remove the signs the Mayor requested. Linda Kashner seconded the motion. All aye.

**COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT, ACTIVITY CENTERS & RECREATION:**

- Mr. Haney reported that the Code Office is working on Main Street property owners to update some of the buildings. The office has contacted the Church that owns Dukes 15<sup>th</sup> Round, the church is going to speak to the company that is tearing down the flood property about tearing down the hotel. Other property owners are being contacted regarding the condition of their property.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- Linda Kashner made the motion seconded by Barb Reese to reopen the 2016 budget. All aye.
- Linda Kashner made the motion seconded by Doug Krum to freeze the “At Will” employee’s raises until the 2016 budget is finalized. All aye.
- There was a discussion regarding the Code Enforcement Appeals Board.
- Mr. Haney informed Council he will no longer be able to use his personal vehicle to conduct Borough Code business. Linda Neyer suggested that the Code Enforcement Officers might walk around the Borough.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

- Joe Benware made a motion seconded by Doug Krum to table the adoption of Resolution 2016-01 lowering the base rate for residential, small power, and large power by \$5.00 to \$15.02, \$21.38 and \$314.18, respectively, effective the end of the January 2016 billing. All aye. Harry Young would like the Small Power rate structure amended so that the additional kwh cost of power supplier is stated.
- Linda Kashner made the motion seconded by Doug Krum to require 3 signatures for checks. Linda would also like the bills initialed before checks are printed. Bills would be presented to council at meeting and printed the next day. Checks signers will be Jay Roberts, Connie Benware, and Linda Kashner. All aye
- Doug Krum made the motion seconded by Joe Benware for check signatures to be: Connie Benware, Jay Roberts, Linda Kashner, Roger Nuss, and Kimberly Rhoades. All aye.
- Connie Benware nominated Joe Benware as the representative to the Source Water Protection Committee. Seconded by Doug Krum. All aye.
- Linda Kashner asked about Lori being able to do billing and collect cash. Roger explained that Lori is able to conduct the billing and a rider has been placed on the insurance for theft. She also asked if Roger can print checks and other things for Quick Books. Roger feels confident that he will be able to print checks.
- Linda Kashner spoke that she would like to see council work together to form a more transparent government with more communication. Gary Steinruck would also like to see more communication with council. A meeting with council will be made before a budget is proposed.

#### GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Linda Neyer spoke regarding the helpfulness of the sign out front reminding the public of the council meeting date. She would like to see more council meeting minutes on line also. Linda Kashner would like more information on the web site.

#### ADJOURNMENT:

- Barb Reese made the motion seconded by Connie Benware to adjourn. All aye.

#### MEETING ADJOURNED:

Submitted by:  
Kimberly Rhoades  
Secretary