

CATAWISSA BOROUGH REORGANIZATION MEETING
MONDAY, JANUARY 6, 2014 6:30 P.M.

Borough Manager Chris Moonis opened the meeting with Borough Secretary Kimberly Rhoades confirming the receipt of the Oath of Office and Residency Affidavit from the newly elected officials.

CALL TO ORDER:

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

ROLL CALL:

- Present were: Scott Keefer, Connie Benware, Doug Krum, Joe Benware, Forest McClintock, Jay Roberts, Mayor Frank "Jeff" Achy, Borough Manager Chris Moonis, Attorney Anthony McDonald.
- Gary Steinruck was absent.

NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS: PRESIDENT

- Joe Benware made the motion to nominate Scott Keefer as Council President. Forest McClintock seconded the motion.
- Doug Krum made the motion to nominate Joe Benware as Council President. There was no seconded to this motion.
- Joe Benware made the motion to close the nomination or President of Council. Forest McClintock seconded the motion. All aye.
- Doug Krum was the only nay vote.
- Scott Keefer was appointed Council President for the 2014-2015 term.

NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF OFFERS: VICE PRESIDENT

- Scott Keefer made the motion to nominate Forest McClintock as Council Vice President. Connie Benware seconded the motion.
- Jay Roberts made the motion to close the nominations for Vice President of Council. Scott Keefer seconded the motion. All aye.
- Forest McClintock is the Vice President by a unanimous vote of council.

NONIMATION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS: PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

- Forest McClintock made the motion to open nominations to the office of President Pro Tempore of Council. Scott Keefer seconded the motion.
- Forest McClintock made the motion to nominate Joe Benware to the office of President Pro Tempore of Council. Scott Keefer seconded the motion. Jay Roberts asked what president pro tempore is. Tony McDonald explained that if both the president and vice president were unable to lead a council meeting the president pro tempore would be in charge.
- Connie Benware made the motion to close the nominations for President Pro Tempore. Scott Keefer seconded the motion. All aye.
- Forest McClintock made the motion to appoint Joe Benware as President Pro Tempore. Scott Keefer seconded the motion. All aye.

WITH THE COUNCIL OFFICERS ELECTIONS COMPLETE, THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING OF COUNCIL BEGAN.

READING OF MINUTES:

- Joe Benware made the motion to dispense with the reading of and approve the minutes of the previous months' meeting. Scott Keefer seconded the motion. All aye.

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- No guests spoke at this time.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:

- Code Enforcement Officer James Haney had nothing to report.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Columbia/Montour Boroughs Association Meeting will be held Tuesday, January 21, 2014 beginning at 6:00 pm at the Capital Restaurant.

WATER:

- Water Authority Superintendent Cindy Bachman announced the Source Water Protection Committee will be meeting on January 28, 2014 at 6:00 pm at the Borough Hall. Cindy will update council of the changes forthcoming at next month's meeting.
- Forest McClintock made the motion to appoint Terry Adams to the Catawissa Water Authority Board to serve a five year term. Jay Roberts seconded the motion. All aye.

BOROUGH MANAGER REPORT:

- Borough Manager Chris Moonis complimented all the workers regarding the amount of compliments received for residents and visitors to the Borough regarding the Christmas decorations especially, the tree in the square. Chris then summarized the employees' activities for the month.
- Mr. Moonis updated Council regarding the progress of the flood buy-out project. At this time 2 (two) properties have closed- Ms. Geraldine Murphy and Mr. Adam Stein. More closings will be done on the 10th of January if everything goes smoothly.

COUNCIL MEMBER GARY STEINRUCK ARRIVED AT THIS TIME.

POLICE:

- Police Chief Joshua Laidacker reported that during the month of December the police responded to 206 (two hundred six) activity reports as recorded by the Columbia County Communications Center.
- All vehicles are running well at this time.
- Chief has suspended the use of the ENRADD system until the weather improves.
- Officers Travepiece and Witherite are now covering shifts on their own and Officer Souchuck should be ready by February 1, 2014.
- On December 31, Chief Kopitsky worked his last shift.
- On the 10th of December, Officer Dombrosky tendered his resignation to the Department due to unavailability.
- Forest McClintock made the motion to accept Officer Joshua Dombrosky's resignation. Jay Roberts seconded the motion. All aye.
- No additional officers are needed at this time.

MAYOR:

- Mayor Achy presented a handicap parking application for Mr. Tom Long of 504 North Fourth St. All of the needed fees, forms and recommendations have been attached.
- Jay Roberts made the motion to grant the motion to grant the handicap parking for 504 North Fourth St. Gary Steinruck seconded the motion. All aye.

MEMBERS OF COUNCIL REMARKS:

- Scott Keefer welcomed new members of council.
- Gary Steinruck apologized for his tardiness. Mr. Steinruck welcomed all new members

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- No unfinished business at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Gary Steinruck made the motion to renew the rental agreement for the Catawissa Senior Center with a 3% increase and will be open 5 (five) days per week. Jay Roberts seconded the motion. All aye. Rent will be \$568.37 per month.
- Joe Benware made the motion to enter into an Employment Agreement with Christopher Moonis. Forest McClintock seconded the motion.

FOREST MCCLINTOCK MADE THE MOTION TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS CONTRACTS BETWEEN CHRIS MOONIS AND POLICE CHIEF JOSHUA LAIDACKER. JOE BENWARE SECONDED THE MOTION. ALL AYE. THE AUDIENCE WAS ASKED TO WAIT IN THE LOBBY OF THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING DUE TO THE EXTREEM COLD WEATHER.

- Doug Krum made a motion to rescind the 2014 budget. Gary Steinruck seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Doug Krum-yes, Forest McClintock-no, Joe Benware-no, Gary Steinruck-yes, Jay Roberts-yes, Connie Benware-no, Scott Keefer-no. Motion does not pass.
- Jay Roberts made the motion to reduce the managers' salary to \$60,000 in the proposed contract. The motion died for lack of second.
- Roll call vote on the motion to enter into an employment agreement with Christopher Moonis. Doug Krum-no, Forest McClintock-yes, Joe Benware-yes, Gary Steinruck-no, Jay Roberts-no, Connie Benware-yes, Scott Keefer-yes. Motion passed.
- Forest McClintock made the motion to enter into an Employment Agreement with Joshua Laidacker. Scott Keefer seconded the motion.
- Jay Roberts made the motion to adjust the Chief of Police salary to \$50,000. The motion died for lack of second.
- Roll call vote to enter into an agreement with Joshua Laidacker. Doug Krum-no, Forest McClintock-yes, Joe Benware-yes, Gary Steinruck-no, Jay Roberts-no, Connie Benware-yes, Scott Keefer-yes. Motion passes.
- Joe Benware made the motion to retain the First Columbia Bank and Trust and PLIGIT as the Borough depositories. Connie Benware seconded the motion. All aye.
- Forest McClintock made the motion to remove Linda Kashner as a signatory from all Borough funds and all bank related documents. Joe Benware seconded the motion. All aye.

- Joe Benware made the motion to require 3 (three) signatures for all Borough checks and related documents. Forest McClintock seconded the document. Listed signatories are: Scott Keefer, Connie Benware, Jay Roberts, Chris Moonis and Kim Rhoades. All aye.

FINANCE:

- Forest McClintock made the motion to accept the payment of the bills as written. Scott Keefer seconded the motion. All aye.

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Pat Hess complained that the Borough workers were not stopping at stop signs when plowing. She also asked about Borough workers cleaning leaves at residents' homes.
- Linda Kashner asked if the delinquent electric bill letters were sent to the sheriff's department. Chris explained that as soon as the committees are formed and letters are reviewed they will be mailed. Linda gave a recommendation for a policy regarding tenants with electric bills.
- Linda Kashner asked if the Senior Center thermostat has been programmed for efficiency.
- Sharon Krum asked who is plowing the parking lot of the PNC property.

ADJURNMENT:

- Forest McClintock made the motion to adjourn. Gary Steinruck seconded the motion. All aye.

MEETING ADJOURNED:

Submitted by:

Kimberly Rhoades

Secretary