

CATAWISSA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2016 6:30 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER:

- The meeting was called to order by Council President, Gary Steinruck.
- The pledge of allegiance was recited.

ROLL CALL:

- Present were: Gary Steinruck, Linda Neyer, Jay Roberts, Doug Krum, Joe Benware, Linda Kashner, Barb Reese, Mayor Frank :Jeff: Achy, Manager Fred Hess, Attorney Anthony McDonald.

READING OF MINUTES:

- Linda Kashner made the motion seconded by Doug Krum to dispense with the reading of and approve the minutes of the previous monthly meeting. All aye.

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- No guests spoke at this time.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Columbia/Montour Borough's Association Meeting will be held November 10, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. at Edith's Kitchen in Danville.
- There will be a test of the emergency siren on Saturday, October 15, 2016 at 12:00 noon.
- The next Neighborhood Watch meeting will be held Tuesday, November 15, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at the Borough Hall.
- The DCNR recreation and conservation grants program will be accepting applications from January 23rd to April 12, 2017.

MAYOR:

- Mayor Achy set "Trick or Treat" date as October 31, 2016 from the hours of 6-8 p.m. Linda Kashner asked that porch lights must be on to participate not just decorations.

MANAGERS REPORT:

- Manager Hess reported that he and Gary Steinruck attended the PMEA conference at State College.
- He has been in negotiations for the uniform contract.
- Fred participated in interviews for the street department position.
- Bids are still being accepted for the purchase of the 2006 police vehicle.
- The Borough is still looking for part time police officers.

WATER:

- Water Authority Superintendent, Cindy Bachman had nothing to report.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:

- Code and Zoning Officer, James Haney reported that during the month of September the office issued 5 red warning tickets, wrote 5 letters to property owners, and 5 verbal warning were issued.
- Gary Steinruck asked for an update regarding the proposed condos on South Third Street.
- Mr. Haney explained that the bank was holding up the project.
- Doug Krum made the motion seconded by Linda Neyer to set a date of October 31, 2016 to have the property at least leveled. All aye. Mr. Haney explained that this company also purchased the property across the street.

POLICE:

- Police Chief, Joshua Laidacker reported that during the month of September 2016 the department responded to 310 calls for service, as reported by the Columbia County Communications Center.
- During the last week of August and the first week of September the department responded to 5 narcotic overdose calls. That is significant to this area.
- The 2017 proposed police budget has been submitted for review.
- Officer Hugh Clinton has received his certification, and is currently training with the department.
- Officers Hayes and Hagemeyer remain off the schedule due to medical.
- Linda Neyer asked about attendance to the Neighborhood Watch. Linda Kashner said about 8 – 10 people have been at the meetings.

UTILITIES:

- Joe Benware reported that 6 meters were removed for non-payment and remain off, 108 electric late notices, and 47 sewer late notices were sent October 3rd and are due October 11th. \$42,000 is still owed for electric \$4,400 for the sewer.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

- Joe Benware had nothing at this time.

PARKS & RECREATION:

- The boards on the seesaw have been replaced. The committee is looking at the cost of replacing the steps at the Quaker Meetinghouse.
- The committee is also looking at the cost of cementing the pavilion at CARA park. Wheelchairs have a hard time navigating due to the stone floor.

PROPERTY/BUILDING MAINTENANCE:

- Gary Steinruck explained that the sewer project is ongoing and is expected to be complete by this fall.
- The Community Center project is also progressing.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION:

- Linda Kashner reported the committee has begun budget meetings. The committee hopes to have the 2017 budget ready for the November meeting.
- The General Fund balance is \$105,000, Electric is \$7,551, Sewer is -\$7,127.

- The Capital loan of \$20,000 was paid with FEMA/PEMA money.

UNION NEGOTIATIONS:

- Gary Steinruck reported a tentative agreement has been reached with the police department.
- Non-uniform negotiations begin October 24th.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

- Barb Reese reported, the committee met with Rich Kisner and Josh Nespoli of Columbia County Housing Redevelopment Authority. The committee is partnering with the Authority to handle vacant and blighted properties. Residents are welcome to join. New and fresh ideas are welcome and needed.
- The PNC property is under contract. Because closing has not taken place the information is not available to the public.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Linda Kashner made the motion seconded by Barb Reese to adopt Ordinance 2016-03 in regard to the Borough of Catawissa Manager position. Linda Neyer, and Linda Kashner stated that in section 16: the power to approve all purchase orders in the amount of less than seven hundred fifty (\$750) should be stricken and approved via Resolution. All aye.
- Linda Kashner made the motion seconded by Barb Reese to accept the bid from Brandon Beck to purchase the safe door from the basement of the borough building in the amount of \$331.00. All aye.
- Jay Roberts made the motion seconded by Joe Benware to approve the spending of \$400 for a dinner for the Halloween Parade volunteers. The dinner may not exceed the proposed amount. All aye.
- Linda Kashner made the motion seconded by Barb Reese to advertise the addendum to the parking ordinance to include the Municipal parking lot. The 15 minute areas and the police parking will be added. The addendum will be prepared by Attorney McDonald and will be ready for the next monthly meeting. All aye.
- Joe Benware made the motion seconded by Linda Neyer to accept the Uniform Police contract. All aye.
- Council President, Gary Steinruck announced Council conducted an Executive Session prior to the meeting to discuss labor negotiations.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Barb Reese made the motion seconded by Linda Kashner to raise the Borough Treasurer salary to \$16.50 per hour. All aye.
- Barb Reese made the motion seconded by Joe Benware to hire Crystal Stoker as a public works employee. All aye.

FINANCE:

- Joe Benware made the motion seconded by Linda Neyer to accept the payment of bills as written. All aye.

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- No guests spoke.

ADJOURNMENT:

- Jay Roberts made the motion seconded by Doug Krum to adjourn. All aye.

MEETING ADJOURNED;

Submitted by:

Kimberly Rhoades

Secretary