

CATAWISSA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2012 6:30 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER:

- The meeting was called to order by Council President Scott Keefer.
- The pledge of allegiance was recited.

ROLL CALL:

- Present were: Scott Keefer, Barb Reese, Linda Kashner, Gary Steinruck, Joe Benware, Tim Benner, Borough Manager Chris Moonis, mayor Achy, and Attorney McDonald. Forest McClintock was absent.

READING OF THE MINUTES:

- Barb Reese made the motion to dispense with the reading of and approve the minutes of the previous months meeting. Joe Benware seconded the motion. Linda Kashner requested that on page 3 under Parks and Recreation the word form be changed to from. Barb Reese revised her motion to include the correction and Joe Benware seconded the motion. All aye, none opposed.

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Craig Long spoke on behalf of the Halloween Parade Committee to inform council there will be fireworks from the bluff after the parade this year.
- Barry Krum again complained about right wheel to curb parking.
- Doug Krum asked on behalf of Harold Kitchen "What is happening with the hedge"? Code Enforcement Officer James Haney replied that he is looking into the hedge and is speaking with the police and conducting a traffic hazard study.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- The Tri-County ABATE donated \$435.00 to the police fund.
- The Senior Center members thanked council for the Senior Day Event.

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER:

- Code Enforcement Officer James Haney had nothing to report at this time.

WATER:?"

- Catawissa Water Authority Superintendent Cindy Bachman reported that the part of Shuman St. that the authority has been working on will be paved.

BOROUGH MANAGER REPORT:

- Manager Chris Moonis gave the employee work reports.
- 2013 Liquid Fuels allocation is estimated to be \$35,403.80.
- Tim Benner asked Chris to have Harry Young check on a low wire on a pole near Tim's home on Shuman St. Tim is not sure if the wire is electrical, telephone, or cable but, it needs to be taken care of soon.

FINANCE & UTILITIES:

- Committee Chairperson Linda Kashner reported 139 electric late notices and 74 sewer late notices were sent this month. Last month 3 meters were pulled for non payment and one was reinstalled.
- The finance committee has begun meeting to work on the 2013 budget.

**POLICE:**

- Police Chief Anthony Kopitsky reported that the police responded to 165 incidents as recorded by county communications.
- Officer Gallie has completed her training and is patrolling on her own.
- The DEA “Drug Take Back” program totaled 24 pounds of drugs.
- The Halloween Parade permit has been issued by Penn Dot and is now complete.
- The crosswalk signs have been up for about a month. They have been hit about 5 times so far. Chief is reminding people about the law.
- The speed trailer has been returned. Chief is working on fixing it.
- The mayor has to set trick or treat night date.

**PUBLIC SAFETY:**

- Council decided to table the discussion on an ordinance regarding skateboards, rollerblades etc.

**MAYOR:**

- Mayor Achy set “Trick or Treat” night for Wednesday, October 31, 2012 from 6-8 p.m.
- Three people have applied for handicap parking spaces. Charles Kingston, Dorothy Haines, and Earl Kline.
- Gary Steinruck made the motion to place a handicap parking space at 221 N. Second St. Barb Reese seconded the motion. All aye.
- A motion was not made to place a handicap parking spot in front of 148 N. Second St.
- Gary Steinruck made the motion to place a handicap parking space on 712 Shuman St. Linda Kashner seconded the motion. Tim Benner was the only opposition. Motion passes 5-1.
- The mayor asked council to consider suspending the “Right Wheel to Curb” law for the winter months. Scott Keefer responded that the committee would review this for next meeting.

**PARKS & RECREATION:**

- Committee Chairperson Barb Reese stated that Senior Day was well received by the senior population.
- “Santa Day” will be held on December 15, 2012. The fire company will help sponsor this event and volunteers are needed.

**ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:**

- Committee Chairperson Barb Reese had nothing to report at this time.

**PROPERTY/BUILDING MAINTENANCE CHAIRMAN:**

- Committee Chairman Gary Steinruck explained the information given to them earlier in the month regarding Senior Center repairs. This list places repairs in order of importance. When the money from the grant runs out, the project will be suspended. Two bids will be needed: one bid for the most critical items and another for all the items needed done.

**PERSONNEL/ADMINISTRATION CHAIRMAN:**

- Committee Chairman Scott Keefer announced that the committee has been meeting with the non uniform union (AFSCME).

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- There was no unfinished business at this time.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

- Barb Reese made the motion to donate \$400 to the Halloween Parade Committee. Joe Benware seconded the motion. All aye. This money will go toward the fireworks and will come from the final amount budgeted from the donations fund.
- A roast beef dinner will be held Saturday, October 13, 2012 at the fire hall to benefit the Halloween Parade.
- Pat Hess complained that the fire hall charges the Halloween Parade Committee for use of the social hall during their benefit dinner.
- Linda Kashner made the motion to table the members' contributions for the Police Pension Plan until the finance committee has a chance to review with the actuary. Barb Reese seconded the motion. All aye.
- Barb Reese made the motion to direct the Solicitor to draft and advertise an amendment to the Catawissa Code of Ordinances, Chapter 27, Zoning, Section 903, Zoning Hearing Board, Subsection 6, Appeals, Part C, to increasing the fee to applications for zoning appeal from three hundred fifty dollars. (\$350.00) to five hundred dollars (\$500.00) plus any costs incurred to record and transcribe the hearing. Linda Kashner seconded the motion. Attorney McDonald cautioned council that the Borough may not profit from a zoning hearing. Linda Kashner explained that during the last zoning hearing board the borough lost money. All aye.
- Tim Benner made the motion to direct the Solicitor to draft and advertise an amendment to the Catawissa Code of Ordinance, Chapter 27, Zoning, Part 13, Zoning Map Amendments, to change the zoning district on parcel 08-05-13400, 751 Creek Road, Catawissa PA, from R-1, Residential, Low-Medium Density, to I-1, Light Industrial and to further execute the process to have the zoning changed and recorded. Joe Benware seconded the motion. Attorney McDonald explained the process of this motion. Council would like this finished by the end of 2012. Manager Chris Moonis and Attorney McDonald will work on the process. All aye.
- Linda Kashner made the motion to adopt the resolution authorizing, empowering and directing Council to appoint the Borough Manager as its liaison between it and Berkheimer, the duly appointed collector of Earned Income Tax for the Municipality, for the express purpose of sharing confidential tax information with the district for official purposes. Gary Steinruck seconded the motion. All aye.
- Barb Reese made the motion to adopt a resolution of the Borough of Catawissa, authorizing and empowering its local tax collector, Berkheimer, to impose and retain costs of collection on delinquent taxes. Joe Benware seconded the motion. All aye.
- Tim Benner made the motion for a directive to the Borough Manager to execute all documents necessary relating to the collection of Earned Income Tax with Berkheimer tax administrators. Linda Kashner seconded the motion. All aye.
- Barb Reese made the motion to direct the Solicitor to draft and advertise and Ordinance posing it illegal and setting fines in the amount of up to three hundred dollars (\$300.00) or up to 90 days in jail to property owners that allow "Interior" furniture to collect or be set upon the "Exterior" of a property, other than for the disposal of furniture at the owners next trash collection day, but not more than a calendar week. Linda Kashner seconded the motion. All aye.
- Scott Keefer made the motion to direct the Solicitor to draft and advertise an Ordinance to adopt the 2012 International Property Maintenance Code and repealing all prior property maintenance codes of the Borough of Catawissa. Linda Kashner seconded the motion.
- Scott Keefer made the motion to table the above motion until next month until everyone has a chance to review the 2012 International Property Maintenance Code. Linda Kashner seconded the motion to table. All aye.
- Gary Steinruck made the motion to enter into an agreement with Peters Consultants, Inc. for the Video Camera Recording of Storm Water Culverts and Piping of Catawissa Borough in the contractual amount of four thousand two hundred dollars (\$4,200.00). Barb Reese seconded the motion. The entire length of the culvert will be inspected. All aye.

- Barb Reese made the motion to reimburse Alice Dawn Linn of 148 South Third Street for expenses incurred to hand mow property immediately above the Catawissa Borough Storm Drainage culvert because of the shifting of the culvert top stones in the amount of tow hundred forty dollars (\$240.00). (16 times @ \$15/cut). Gary Steinruck seconded the motion. All aye.

FINANCE:

- Gary Steinruck made the motion to accept the payment of bills as written. Linda Kashner seconded the motion. All aye.

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Doug Krum asked if the borough could also paint the area on Shuman Street that has steps down the bank.
- Pat Hess asked about the borough workers doing work at the site of the “Welcome to Catawissa” signs.
- The Main Street Task Force handled the bids and project for the signs.
- Pat Hess asked about the bank on 2 ½ St. (cutting grass)
- Pat Hess reported abandoned vehicles in the borough. Mr. Haney has been investigating these vehicles.
- Janice Longenberger asked that the crosswalk signs be moved for the Halloween Parade.
- Sharon Krum asked if the witch will be put on the bluff. Chris explained that the ground needs to dry some before the trucks will be able to make the trip.
- Tim Benner asked about the shirt factory on Third St. Chris Moonis explained that this process is still ongoing. The demolition of the property is financed through the construction costs.
- Mayor Achy asked about the Harris property. Attorney McDonald explained that this deed is in Texas at this time.
- Pat Hess asked about the Third St. property owner being fined. Jim Haney has spoken to the owner regarding this.
- Derrick Valenchik of the Catawissa Christian Church introduced Alex Siford. Alex will be taking over the Youth Ministry for the Church.

ADJOURNMENT:

- Tim Benner made the motion to adjourn. Gary Steinruck seconded the motion. All aye.

MEETING ADJOURNED:

Submitted by;  
Kimberly Rhoades  
Secretary