

CATAWISSA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2014~6:30 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, Connie Benware, Gary Steinruck, Forest McClintock, Doug Krum, Mayor Frank “Jeff” Achy, Borough Manager Roger Nuss, Attorney Anthony McDonald.
- Jay Roberts and Joe Benware were absent.

READING OF MINUTES:

- **Forest McClintock made the motion** seconded by Doug Krum to dispense with the reading of and approve the minutes of the previous months meetings. All aye.

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Barb Reese requests that the response to questions be recorded in the minutes. Council instructed the secretary to add answers to minutes.
- Destiny Eppinette requested permission to hold a 5k run next year to raise money to help with legal costs associated with her daughters’ abduction. Council suggested she work with the police and the parks and recreation committee to help with organizing the fund raiser.
- Doug Krum asked why the delinquent customers are not charged with theft of service. Attorney McDonald explained that the District Attorney will not prosecute these accounts.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- A “Thank You” letter was received from Alice Dawn Linn for the work done at the culvert on her property.

MAYOR

- **Forest McClintock made the motion** to place pedestrian cross walk flashing lights at Main Street and Second Street and Main and Third Street. Connie Benware seconded the motion. **All aye.** Chief Laidacker explained the situation with the speed reduction of Mill Street near the Dollar General Store.
- Harry Young asked what time of light will be placed at the cross walks and how much will they cost. The Mayor explained that has not yet been determined. Penn Dot will determine what lights will be installed after the study.

Staff and Authority Reports

MANAGER’S REPORT:

- Manager Roger Nuss gave a summary employee work report.
- Roger gave a summary Manager’s report.

WATER:

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

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:

- Code Enforcement Officer James Haney reported 22 issues responded to, 4 building permits issued, 17 red tags were placed on doors, 3 letters were sent regarding properties, 10 door hangers were issued, 3 citations and 3 days in court.
- Jim and Brian Rhone are working to resolve the issues at the Linn property, the property with the retaining wall that needs replaced and the flood properties.
- The Code Office has been working with PA Pets regarding the feral cats in town.
- Mr. Haney addressed the issue of the fence on the corner of N. Fourth Street and Main Street.

POLICE:

- Police Chief Joshua Laidacker reported the department responded to 156 calls for service.
- The vehicles are having winter tires installed.
- The two Tablets are now in service.
- InnoTeck submitted a quote for computer repair and maintenance on the day of meeting.
- A grant is available for Tazers for the borough. This is a 50%-50% matching grant.
- The Halloween Parade was a success

Pat Hess asked Jim Haney who was going to clean up the area around the afore mentioned fence when the owner pulls out in front of someone when his vision is obstructed. Mr. Haney explained that the fence is within the law.

Sharon Krum asked about snow removal where the fence is located. Mr. Haney responded that they will do what the place across the street does with snow.

Committee Reports

PUBLIC SAFETY:

- **Forest McClintock made the motion** to advertise and interview for at least two part time police officers. Scott Keefer seconded the motion. All aye.
- Forest McClintock expressed his concern about the children reaching for candy at the Halloween Parade. Scott Keefer asked the Chief to review the issue with the Parade Committee. Sharon Krum spoke about what other communities do for the situation.

UTILITIES:

- Committee Chairperson Connie Benware reported that last month 2 meters were pulled for non-payment and later reinstalled. 63 Sewer and 141 electric late notices were sent on November 3, 2014.
- Scott Keefer asked council to go through the process of Sheriff Sale for 2 customers that owe large past due bills and are still in the area. Forest McClintock seconded the motion. All aye.

PARKS & RECREATION:

- Connie Benware as committee member spoke about the receiving of a \$31,000 grant for the Rails to Trails project.
- The date for “Santa Day” has been moved to Sunday, December 14, 2014 from 12-2 p.m. at the Catawissa Fire Hall.

PROPERTY/BUILDING MAINTENANCE:

- Committee Chairman Gary Steinruck updated council about the LED lighting being installed around the Borough.
- Gary and Roger had a meeting with Larsen Design regarding the Senior Center Project.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION:

- Committee Chairperson Scott Keefer reported that the committee has met several times to work on the 2015 budget.
- The applications for the Administrative position were due on Thursday and the committee has not had time to review them.

UNION NEGOTIATIONS:

- The committee is waiting on the union representative to contact them regarding the health care changes.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

- Committee Chairperson Doug Krum reported that the committee met to familiarize themselves with each other and the issues of the Borough.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Forest McClintock asked if Mr. Haney would look into the company doing property maintenance at the PNC building. They are blowing leave and trimmings onto other people’s property and not picking up.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Forest McClintock made the motion** to approve the request from Locust Township Police Department for the use of the Borough auger and workers to dig holes for the posts for a garage to house the Township police cars. Scott Keefer seconded the motion. All aye.
- **Connie Benware made the motion** seconded by Scott Keefer to install a utility sink and purchase computer tablets for the Senior Center. All aye.
- **Connie Benware and Scott Keefer withdrew their motion until a quote can be obtained for the installation of the utility sink.**
- **Forest McClintock made the motion** seconded by Gary Steinruck to increase Brandon Auten’s pay to \$14.00 per hour now and to \$15.00 per hour after his probationary period ends. All aye.
- **Connie Benware made the motion** seconded by Gary Steinruck to increase the late penalty on Sewer and Electric bills to 15%. All aye.

- **Connie Benware made the motion** seconded by Gary Steinruck to increase the reconnect fee for Sewer and Electric to \$100. All aye. The penalty and reconnect fee raise will begin on January 1, 2015
- **Forest McClintock made the motion** seconded by Scott Keefer to approve the Tazer grant up to a 50% match for January application. All aye.
- **Doug Krum made the motion** seconded by Forest McClintock to set the standard percentage amount before a utility will be reconnected at the current bill plus 50% minimum of past due plus reconnect fee. If a payment is missed the meter will be pulled the next business day. All aye.
- **Harry Young asked council** to consider planting a tree in the Borough Hall lot for decorating for Christmas in the future.
- **Harry asked if the decorations that** are put on the poles can be mixed.
- **Forest McClintock made the motion** to have Harry mix the decorations on Main Street and Mill Street. The motion was seconded by Gary Steinruck. All aye.
- **Forest McClintock made the motion** seconded by Connie Benware to accept the lowest bid from Penoco in the amount of \$1,979 for hazardous material removal of flood properties. All aye.
- **Forest McClintock made the motion** seconded by Connie Benware to join the Tri-County COG for building inspections for the Borough. All aye.

FINANCE:

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

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- John Slaterback expressed his concern about the safety of children during “Trick or Treat” night. The Safety Committee and the Chief of Police will look into possible safety measures.

ADJOURNMENT:

- Connie Benware made the motion seconded by Forest McClintock to adjourn. All aye.

MEETING ADJOURNED:

Submitted by:
 Kimberly Rhoades
 Secretary