

CATAWISSA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING  
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2013 6:30 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER:

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

A MOMENT OF SILENCE WAS OBSERVED FOR THE VETRANS AMONG US.

ROLL CALL:

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

READING OF MINUTES:

- Linda Kashner made the motion to dispense with the reading of and approve the minutes of the previous month's meeting. Barb Reese seconded the motion. All aye.

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Doug Krum asked why the borough was hiring a full time police officer instead of using the part time officers. Scott Keefer asked if he could hold that question until later in the meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- A request was made from the Sun Home Health & Hospice for a monetary donation.
- The emergency Service Report for the 2<sup>nd</sup> -3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2013 has been submitted by Chief Donald G. Traugh, Ph.D.

MAYOR:

- Mayor Achy was not in attendance and a report was not submitted from any other council member on his behalf.

Staff and Authority Reports:

MANAGER'S REPORT:

- Borough Manager Chris Moonis submitted a summary report of the employee activities during the month of October. The NPDES permit renewal has been submitted.
- The finance committee submitted a 2014 budget for the review of council. The committee would like to meet on Thursday, November 14, 2013 to discuss the budget for advertising for public review. Gary Steinruck asked that the 2013 budget be available for comparison.

WATER:

- Water Authority Superintendent Cindy Bachman had nothing to report to Council at this time.

#### CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:

- Code Enforcement Officer James Haney was not in attendance and did not submit a report to council for the meeting.

#### POLICE:

- Police Chief Anthony Kopitsky referred to Senior Officer Joshua Laidacker for the report to Council. Officer Laidacker reported to Council that during the month of October the department responded to 157 (one hundred fifty-seven) activity reports as recorded by the Columbia County Communications Center.
- The 2006 Crown Victoria had a factory recall on the steering column, it was replaced at no cost to the Borough.
- The 2010 and 2014 now have laptops thanks to Linda Kashner and Bloomsburg University.
- Officer Laidacker reported that the 7<sup>th</sup> DEA National Drug Take Back day was held on October 26, 2013 with an estimated 50 (fifty) pounds of drugs handed into the program.
- The 106<sup>th</sup> (one hundred sixth) Halloween Parade went off with very minor problems. Officer Laidacker thanked all the volunteers who assisted with traffic control on behalf of the department.
- There was a good turn-out for “Trick or Treat” night.
- The ENRADD system has been suspended temporarily due to scheduling issues
- Sergeant Scott Fronk submitted his resignation on November 1, 2013 with an effective date of November, 15, 2013.

#### Committee Reports

#### PUBLIC SAFETY:

- Committee Chairman Forest McClintock deferred his report until New Business.

#### UTILITIES:

- Committee Chairperson Linda Kashner reported that during the month of October 159 (one hundred fifty-nine) electric late notices and 79 (seventy-nine) sewer late notices were sent for non-payment. Limiters will be installed for the duration of the cold season.

#### PARKS & RECREATION:

- Committee Co-Chairperson Joe Benware reminded everyone that “Santa Day” will be Saturday, December 7, 2013. Preparations are underway. Forest McClintock asked what type of donations the committee would like to obtain. Linda Kashner asked if a box will be provided for donated toys. The location should be announced.

#### ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

- Committee Chairperson Barb Reese introduced the 2023 Catawissa Borough Vision Plan. Barb asked Chris Moonis to summarize the plan for everyone. Mr. Moonis will send this plan to State and Federal agencies and any other organizations.
- Forest McClintock made the motion to adopt the 2023 Catawissa Borough Vision Plan. Joe Benware seconded the motion. All aye.

#### PROPERTY/BUILDING MAINTENANCE CHAIRMAN:

- Committee Chairman Gary Steinruck introduced a proposal for replacing the street lighting with LED lighting for a significant savings to the borough.

#### FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION CHAIRMAN:

- Committee Chairman Scott Keefer stated the committee has been working on the 2014 budget with an executive session on Thursday, November 14, 2013 at 4:30 p.m. Followed by a public meeting at 6:00 p.m. to review the 2014 budget.
- Scott Keefer announced that Council had an executive/special meeting on Thursday, November 7, 2013 to accept the resignation of Sergeant Scott Fronk.

#### UNION NEGOTIATION:

- Committee Chairman Scott Keefer reported no activity in negotiations.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Forest McClintock made the motion to adopt a resolution eliminating police officers contributions to the police pension plan for the year 2014. Tim Benner seconded the motion. Linda Kashner asked if council was going to ask for contribution for police officers to the pension plan? Chris explained the pension plan. Scott Keefer explained that new hires pay a 6% contribution to the pension according to the current contract.
- Forest McClintock made the motion to table the vote on police pension contribution until next month. Tim Benner seconded the motion to table. All aye.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

- Forest McClintock made the motion to hire Jason Hayes as a Full Time Police Officer, effective November 18, 2013, at the starting salary of \$35,105.00 per annum. Barb Reese seconded the motion. After a discussion. All aye.
- Linda Kashner made the motion to direct the Public Safety Committee to immediately recruit and present for hire at least two (2) part time Police Officers and advertise to refill the pool if needed. Scott Keefer seconded the motion. Linda Kashner would like to have them sign an agreement to fill at least 2 shifts per pay period. Forest McClintock explained that an agreement is already in place. All aye.
- Tim Benner made the motion to direct the Borough Manager to solicit quotes for the restoration of the storm water box culvert “caps” starting at South Street across from the Quaker Meeting House through the property owned by Alice Dawn Linn. Barb Reese seconded the motion. Linda Kashner asked if the debris has been removed. Chris

explained that the debris has been removed and that it was not wood as originally thought but stone. All aye.

- Tim Benner made the motion to adopt a resolution authorizing, empowering and directing the proper officers of the governing board to appoint Rose Hagerman as liaison between the Act 32 committee and Berkheimer, the duly appointed collector of earned income tax for the municipality. Linda Kashner seconded the motion. All aye.
- Tim Benner made the motion to establish a policy with regard to operating procedures for snow and/or ice removal. Gary Steinruck seconded the motion. Chris Moonis read the proposed policy. Forest McClintock asked the police department to adopt this policy as SOP. All aye.

#### FINANCE:

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

#### GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- No guests spoke at this time.

#### ADJOURNMENT:

- Scott Keefer made the motion to adjourn. Tim Benner seconded the motion. All aye.

#### MEETING ADJOURNED:

Submitted by:  
Kimberly Rhoades  
Secretary