

CATAWISSA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING  
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2012

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, Forest McClintock, Borough Manager Chris Moonis, Mayor Achy, Attorney McDonald. Tim Benner was absent.

READING OF MINUTES:

- Forest McClintock 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 corrected page 2 a comma should be after the word “out” under property/building maintenance. Sharon Krum asked if the witch “would be” put up on the bluff. Barb Reese noted that Berkheimer was misspelled on page 3. All aye with corrections.

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Mary Mulligan asked someone to look into the hole in the yard at 251 S. Third St., possibly caused by the factory drainage
- Ms. Mulligan also commented about the grass and weeds growing on the Snyder property on S. Third St. and the Brobst property on S. Third St. She is also concerned about the condition of the old factory building on S. Third St. it appears to be on the verge of collapse.
- Mr. Mulligan requested a handicap parking space in front of his home. Council explained that he must fill out an application.
- Pat Hess asked for the status of the building on S. Third St.
- Chris Moonis explained that the demolition permit has been issued and will meet with Mr. Haney to speak to the developer regarding a demolition schedule.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:

- Code Enforcement Officer James Haney was not available to report.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- The secretary read the resignation letter from Fannie Shultz, the borough cleaning lady, effective December 31, 2012. Her last cleaning day will be December 29, 2012.

- Linda Kashner made the motion to accept the resignation of Fannie Shultz effective December 31, 2012. Gary Steinruck seconded the motion. All aye.
- Linda Kashner made the motion to advertise for the cleaning position. Barb Reese seconded the motion. All aye.

#### WATER:

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

#### BOROUGH MANAGER REORT:

- Borough Manager Chris Moonis made a request to council that since the Christmas Holiday is on a Tuesday, the Borough Office be closed on Monday, December 24, 2012.
- Forest McClintock made the motion to close the office December 24, 2012. Scott Keefer seconded the motion. All aye.
- Chris gave the work reports for the employees.

#### FINANCE & UTILITIES:

- Committee Chairperson Linda Kashner reported that 118 electric late notices and 66 sewer late notices were sent out last month. Three (3) meters were pulled for non payment and one meter was reinstalled.
- The finance committee held several meetings to work on the 2013 budget.
- Chris Moonis introduced the proposed 2013 budget. Chris thanked the finance committee for their work. Chris explained that council will see the only change made from the original budget was a \$250 work uniforms addition. Originally, no money was placed in this line item.
- Chris explained the budget to those in attendance. Forest McClintock asked what the sampler for the sewer plant is.
- Chris explained that the sampler would be the same as the one the borough has for the outflow of sewer but this would be on the inflow and would also take samples hourly or as needed.
- Chris explained to those attending this budget includes an increase of sewer and electric rates.
- Forest McClintock made the motion to introduce the 2013 “Proposed Budget” and direct the Secretary to keep it on file, be made available for public inspection for a period of ten (10) days, and publish in a newspaper of general circulation that the budget is available for public inspection. Linda Kashner seconded the motion. All aye.
- Barb Reese made the motion to adopt a resolution to increase the base rate for Sewer Rental from thirty one dollars (\$31.00) per month to thirty five dollars (\$35.00). Gary Steinruck seconded the motion. All aye, none opposed.

- Forest McClintock made the motion to adopt a resolution to increase the electric rates and charges in the operation of its electric utility as described in the proposed resolution. Gary Steinruck seconded the motion. Resolution #2012-11.
- Gary Steinruck made the motion for the electric rate increase to take effect with the January 15<sup>th</sup> reading. Scott Keefer seconded the motion. All aye.
- Barb Reese made the motion for the sewer rate increase to go into effect with the January billing. Scott Keefer seconded the motion. All aye.

**POLICE:**

- Police Chief Anthony Kopitsky reported that during the Month of October the officers responded to 148 incidents as reported to Columbia County Communications.
- The vehicles are running well with no issues to report at this time, and have been prepared for the winter season.
- The Halloween Parade and Trick or Treating both went well with no issues.
- The pedestrian signs have been removed at Penn Dot's request due to winter plowing.
- The speed trailer repair is low on Chief's list. He will look into grants as time allows.
- Chief Kopitsky inadvertently neglected to have council approve the cost of feeding the volunteers during the Halloween parade. The bill from Edith's Kitchen is part of the bills to be paid. If council has an issue please removed that bill before signing.
- Forest McClintock asked the Chief if the speed trailer was really necessary. Chief explained that it is a useful tool, but not necessary. That is why it is low on his list of priorities.

**PUBLIC SAFETY:**

- Committee Chairman Forest McClintock stated that the Right Wheel to Curb law that is written in the Catawissa Code makes no exceptions. Forest made the suggestion to change to ordinance to include borough sponsored events and in climate weather. Tony McDonald explained that the ordinance must be changed along with advertisements etc.
- Forest McClintock made the motion to advertise the ordinance with the changes to exclude Right Wheel to Curb in the case of in climate weather and borough sponsored events. Linda Kashner seconded the motion. All Aye.

**MAYOR:**

- Mayor Achy asked the Chief if there are alternate signs for the pedestrian crossing. Chief explained that there are other signs that would go onto the curb but are costly.

#### PARKS AND RECREATION:

- Co-Chairperson Barb Reese informed everyone that meetings are being held to prepare for the “Santa Day” event scheduled for December 15, 2012. Sponsors are: The Catawissa Hose Co. #1, The Catawissa Lions, The Catawissa VFW and the Catawissa American Legion.
- The Committee thanked Mick Fleming for donating the tree at the “Welcome to Catawissa” sign, replacing the one that was damaged by Hurricane Sandy.

#### ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

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

#### PROPERTY/BUILDING MAINTENANCE CHAIRMAN:

- Committee Chairperson Gary Steinruck reported that the windows project at the Sr. Center has been placed on hold due grant funding delay. Chris explained that the borough received the paperwork today and the project can continue.

#### PERSONNEL/ADMINISTRATION CHAIRMAN:

- Negotiations for uniform and non uniform contracts are ongoing.
- Scott announced that an executive session will be held after the meeting to discuss personnel issues.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Barb Reese made the motion to direct the Solicitor to draft and advertise an Ordinance adopting the 2012 International Property Maintenance Code and repeal all prior property maintenance codes of the Borough. Scott Keefer seconded the motion. Residents will not be expected to change existing structures. Forest McClintock opposed the motion. Vote was 5-1 in favor motion passed.
- Forest McClintock made the motion to reduce to zero (\$0.00) member’s contribution for the Police Pension Plan for 2012. Scott Keefer seconded the motion. All aye.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

- Linda Kashner made the motion to adopt an Ordinance amending the Catawissa Code of Ordinances, Chapter 27, Zoning, Section 903, Zoning Hearing Board, Subsection, appeal, Part C to increase the fee to applicants for a Zoning Appeal from \$350.00 to \$500.00 plus any costs incurred to record and transcribe the Hearing. Gary Steinruck seconded the motion.

- Forest McClintock made the motion to refund any money overpaid for the bill. Barb Reese seconded the motion. All aye. All in favor of increase.
- Forest McClintock made the motion to adopt an Ordinance making it illegal to allow “interior” furniture to collect or be set upon the exterior of a property. Linda Kashner seconded the motion. All aye.
- Barb Reese made the motion to levy the taxes for the 2013 fiscal year, with no increase planned. Gary Steinruck seconded the motion. Tony McDonald stated that this can be done by Resolution. All aye.
- Forest McClintock confirmed that the Right Wheel to Curb is a law and must be enforced.

#### FINANCE:

- Gary Steinruck made the motion to accept payment of bills as written. Forest McClintock seconded the motion.

#### GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Barry Krum complained about the one way on Bank Ave. A heated discussion ensued.
- Barry questioned the electric rates compared to PPL. Mr. Krum also questioned the procedure for delinquent accounts.
- Pat Hess requested council look into the list of vehicles that are unregistered in the Borough.
- Harold Kitchen asked who appoints the Zoning Hearing Board. Mr. Kitchen questioned the lawyer for the hearing board. He believes that it was very poorly run and people did not understand what was going on. Mr. Kitchen did not like the way the meeting was run.
- Mr. Kitchen complained that the borough does not enforce the ordinances they do have now.
- Kristy Yohey asked for an update on the buy-out of the properties flooded by Tropical Storm Lee. Chris explained that the process is still ongoing and the borough is waiting for some information from the property owners.

#### ADJOURNMENT:

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

#### MEETING ADJOURNED:

Submitted by:  
Kimberly Rhoades  
Secretary