

CATAWISSA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 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 Linda Kashner, Barb Reese, Mayor Frank “Jeff” Achy, Manager Fred Hess, Attorney Anthony McDonald.
- Joe Benware was absent.

READING OF MINUTES:

- **Jay Roberts made the motion** seconded by Linda Neyer to dispense with the reading of and approve the minutes of the previous monthly meeting. Linda Kashner corrected the spelling of Nespoli. All aye.

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- County Commissioner, Chris Young spoke to Council about the need for the Traveling Library and its benefits to the community. Ammon Ripple with the Traveling Library spoke regarding the need for a new vehicle and asked council to consider a donation of \$2,000 per year for 5 years.

CORRESPONDENCE

- There will be a Thanksgiving Luncheon at the Senior Center on Friday, November 18, 2016.

MAYOR:

- Mayor Achy explained that the pedestrian street signs were removed at Penn Dot request.

MANAGER’S REPORT:

- Manager Fred Hess gave a summary report of the employee activities during the month.
- Mr. Hess also reported that he has been working on the MS-4 application, the 2017 budget, union negotiations, the sewer plant building project and the Community Center project among other things.

WATER:

- Water Authority Superintendent, Cindy Bachman explained about the MS-4. Peter’s Consultants came up with a much lower bid for the work. Fred Hess and Cindy Bachman will review.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:

- Code Enforcement Officer, James Haney reported that during the month of October the office responded to 15 issues, 3 warnings, 2 door hangers, 2 citations and spent 1 day in court.

POLICE:

- Chief Joshua Laidacker reported that during the month of October the department responded to 243 calls for service, as reported by the Columbia County Communications Center.
- The 2014 Ford had the front brakes replaced.
- There are still 2 officers out on medical leave.
- The Neighborhood Watch meeting is tomorrow night in the Borough Hall.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

- Gary Steinruck informed council that 4 of the officers are in need of bullet proof vests. The cheapest at \$675 does not protect against knife attack. The vest that does protect against knife attack is \$725.
- **Linda Neyer made the motion** seconded by Doug Krum to purchase 4 vests at \$725. All aye.

UTILITIES:

- Linda Kashner reported that 8 meters remain pulled. The electric past due balance is down to \$30,189 and the sewer late due balance is down to \$1,968.

PARKS & RECREATION:

- The committee would like to place a Christmas tree at Eyer park. She feels this would be safer for the children to decorate. She would also like lights on the tree at the Borough building. Maybe next year the borough could have a tree lighting.

PROPERTY & BUILDING MAINTENANCE:

- Gary Steinruck explained that the sewer plant project is progressing.
- Community Center project is looking nice.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION:

- Linda Kashner reported that the electric fund is -\$1,100.00, the sewer fund is -\$10,422 due to charges to raise the sewer plant, general fund account is \$106,000.

UNION NEGOTIATIONS:

- Gary Steinruck reported that the Uniform contract is still open. The officers would like the residency requirement changed.
- Non-uniform negotiations will begin on November 21, 2016.

ECOMONIC DEVELOPMENT:

- Barb Reese reported that there was a meeting with Josh Nespoli on November 7, 2016. A short questionnaire is being developed about Catawissa. This questionnaire will be sent to all age groups.
- The opera house has been sold. No information is available.
- PNC may have been sold. No information is available.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- There is no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Bids were open for the purchase of the 2006 Crown Victoria police car. 1) Police Car Store \$507.00. 2) Ron Romig \$501.00.
- **Linda Kashner made the motion** seconded by Barb Reese to accept the bid from The Police Car Store in the amount of \$507.00. All aye.
- **Linda Kashner made the motion** seconded by Doug Krum to change the tax millage rate from 5.42 to 5.67 mills. Linda Kashner explained the reason for the change. The County voted to eliminate the Per Capita tax. All aye. Attorney McDonald will have the Ordinance ready for the December meeting.
- **Barb Reese made the motion** seconded by Doug Krum to advertise the 2017 budget to be available at the Borough Hall for public inspection during regular business hours. All aye.
- **Barb Reese made the motion** seconded by Linda Neyer to adopt Ordinance 2016-04 regarding signed and timed parking in the Borough. All aye.
- **Linda Kashner made the motion** seconded by Barb Reese to adopt a resolution charging a ½ rate for vacant buildings for sewer, if they have water. Cindy Bachman will provide the Water Authority policy and Linda Kashner will email the information to Tony to provide a resolution for next month.
- **Doug Krum made the motion** seconded by Linda Neyer to table the discussion regarding the stipend towards the repair of the stone wall behind the Opera House. All aye.
- **Linda Kashner made the motion** seconded by Barb Reese to advertise for bids for new windows and painting of the Community Center. Gary explained that if windows are not put in the church part of the property the Borough will have to give back the grant money to CDGB. All aye.
- **Linda Kashner made the motion** seconded by Linda Neyer to void all account checks that are out dated. All aye.
- **Barb Reese made the motion** seconded by Linda Kashner to accept the 2015 audit prepared by Herring & Roll. All aye.
- **Linda Kashner made the motion** seconded by Doug Krum to accept the proposal from Herring & Roll for the preparation of the 2016 audit in the amount of \$5,800. Linda Kashner would like to see a timelier audit. All aye.
- **Jay Roberts made the motion** seconded by Barb Reese to adopt an ordinance to repeal any and all ordinances enacted by the Borough of Catawissa, Columbia County, Pennsylvania that levy a Per Capita Tax and Occupation Tax in the Borough of Catawissa. All aye. Anthony McDonald will have the ordinance ready for the December meeting.
- Gary Steinruck announced that Knorr Excavating will begin working at the South Third Street property on Tuesday.

FINANCE:

- **Linda Kashner made the motion** seconded by Barb Reese to accept the payment of bills as written. All aye.

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Patty Hess expressed her concern for public safety during the Halloween Parade. Children and adults are not paying attention. There was a discussion about solutions.
- Sharon Krum spoke about political advertising during the parade.
- Patty Hess stated that the boards rotting at the Quaker Meetinghouse have not been replaced. Fred Hess explained that he is looking into a Federal grant because the property is on the Historic Registry.

ADJOURNMENT:

- **Jay Roberts made the motion** seconded by Linda Neyer to adjourn. All aye.

MEETING ADJOURNED:

Submitted by:
Kimberly Rhoades
Secretary