

CATAWISSA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2012 6:30 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER:

- The meeting was called to order by Council Vice-President Barb Reese.
- The pledge of allegiance was recited.

ROLL CALL:

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

READING OF MINUTES:

- Joe Benware made the motion to dispense with the reading of and approve the minutes of the previous months meeting. Gary Steinruck seconded the motion. All ayes.

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Barry Krum asked Chief Kopitsky if there is a parking problem in town. Chief Kopitsky explained that there has always been parking issues in town. Mr. Krum complained about the Right Wheel to Curb issue.
- Harold Kitchen asked if you could enforce speed limits in the borough if not posted. Tony McDonald explained the law for speed enforcement and Right Wheel to Curb Law.
- Doug Krum asked if the negotiations are complete. Council answered that the negotiations are still on-going. Attorney McDonald explained the labor union laws.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:

- Code Enforcement Officer James Haney reported that during the month of November he responded to 35 issues or complaints. There were 17 warning tickets issued, 6 citations, 3 court dates, 2 demolition permits, and 7 building permits were issued and inspections completed. Peter's Consultants was directed to issue a permit for the T-Mobil cell tower installation.
- Barry Krum complained about hedges on Johnson and Cemetery Streets being overgrown.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Columbia County Bicentennial asking for donation for 200 year celebration.
- Academy of Little Learners asking to decorate Christmas tree.

- Gary Steinruck made the motion to table the discussion for donation to the Bicentennial. Tim Benner seconded the motion. All aye.
- Chris Moonis read a Thank You letter from the Catawissa Halloween Parade Committee.

#### WATER:

- Catawissa Water Authority Superintendent Cindy Bachman informed council that Columbia and Montour Counties are looking to create a Source Water Protection Coalition.

#### MANAGERS REPORT:

- Borough Manager Chris Moonis briefed council of the employee's work report for the month of November.
- The South Third Street property has been demolished. This takes care of the immediate safety concern. Removal of the debris will be forthcoming. Forest McClintock asked if the borough code states the amount of time allowed for removal of debris. Jim Haney explained that the office is trying to work with the developer and will work toward removal as soon as possible.
- The T-Mobil Cell tower will be installed within the next few days. Forest asked about the dirt being dumped near the Sr. Center. Chris explained that the building inspector is involved in the placement of the dirt.
- Chris continues working with PEMA/FEMA regarding the buy-out. There are 13-15 homes or properties that are part of the project which is for the September 2011 Tropical Storm Lee flooding. The process has been long but progress is being made. Title searches are being done on all 15 properties by Attorney McDonald's Office.

#### FINANCE & UTILITIES:

- Committee Chairperson Linda Kashner reported that 123 electric late notices were sent along with 69 sewer late notices.

#### POLICE:

- Chief of Police Anthony Kopitsky reported to council that during the month of November the police responded to 184 incidents as recorded by Columbia County Communications.
- The vehicles are running fine at this time with no issues.
- The officers are continuing their training. If the officer has not completed their training by the end of this month, they will not be scheduled.
- Chief has not been successful at finding a grant for the speed trailer. He is still looking into grants to either replace or repair the trailer.

#### PUBLIC SAFETY:

- Committee Chairperson Forest McClintock informed council that a tentative agreement is ready for council's vote on the uniform contract. The agreement has been reviewed by the Personnel committee. Forest made the recommendation that only part-time officers with an average of 32 hours per week, based on a 6 month period, should be eligible for bereavement leave of one day.
- Forest McClintock made the motion to execute the uniform contract with the amendment regarding part-time leave. Linda Kashner seconded the motion. Chris explained that under this contract the employee will be responsible for 10% of the annual cost for medical benefits beginning in 2013 and 2014. In 2015 the percentage will be 12% of the annual cost of medical benefits. The wages will be as follows: 2013 and 2014 a pay increase of 2%, and 2015 the increase will be 3%. Roll call vote: Tim Benner-no, Forest McClintock-yes, Joe Benware-yes, Gary Steinruck-no, Linda Kashner-yes, Barb Reese-yes. Motion passes.

#### MAYOR:

- Mayor Achy introduced an application for a handicapped parking space for Joseph Mulligan at 243 S. Third St.
- Gary Steinruck made the motion to grant Mr. Mulligan a handicapped parking space in front of his home at 243 S. Third St. Linda Kashner seconded the motion. Forest McClintock asked the Chief about off street parking availability. The Chief explained that the off street parking is not accessible. All aye.

#### PARKS & RECREATION:

- Committee Chairperson Barb Reese reported that Santa Day will be held on Saturday, December 15, 2012 from 11-2 at the Catawissa Fire Hall. At 2 o'clock The Santa Claus movie will be shown. This event is sponsored by Southside Ambulance, Catawissa Hose, Catawissa VFW, Catawissa American Legion, and the Catawissa Lions Club. There will be Santa, food, fun and prizes for all attending.

#### ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

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

#### PROPERTY/BUILDING MAINTENANCE CHAIRMAN:

- Committee Chairman Gary Steinruck reported that the grant money is now available for the windows project at the Senior Center. The job will have to be re-advertised and bids received.

#### PERSONNEL:

- Committee Chairman Scott Keefer was not in attendance to give a report.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Linda Kashner made the motion to table the adoption of an Ordinance to amend the Catawissa Code, Chapter 15, Sec. 302, Subsection 1 to exclude the enforcement of the Right Wheel to Curb provision in the case of inclement weather and during Borough sponsored events. Also included in this motion was the tabling of the Ordinance adopting the 2012 International Property Maintenance Code and to repeal all prior property maintenance codes of the Borough. Joe Benware seconded the motion to table. Attorney McDonald explained that these will be ready for next months meeting. He did not have time for this month due to the title searches for PEMA/FEMA flood buy-out.
- Forest McClintock made the motion to approve the purchase of the property known as the Maittlen-Harris property for \$500 plus fees and taxes. Tim Benner seconded the motion. All aye.

#### NEW BUSINESS

- Forest McClintock made the motion to approve an agreement of lease between the Borough and the Columbia-Montour Aging Office, Inc., for the leasing of the Catawissa Senior Center. The agreement is for one year and includes a 3% increase in rent from the prior year. \$551.82/month. Tim Benner seconded the motion. All aye.
- Linda Kashner made the motion to approve the 2013 Catawissa Borough Budgets for the General Fund, Electric Fund, Sewer Fund, Liquid Fuels Fund, Senior Center Fund, and Eyer Trust Fund. Gary Steinruck seconded the motion. All aye.
- Gary Steinruck mad the motion to approve the 2013 Capital Budget. Tim Benner seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Tim Benner-yes, Forest McClintock-yes, Joe Benware-yes, Gary Steinruck-yes, Linda Kashner-yes, Barb Reese-yes. Motion Passes.
- Tim Benner made the motion to adopt a resolution to ratify, adopt and approve the Regional Solid Waste Management Plan as its own municipal waste management plan and approve submittal of the Regional Waste Management Plan by Columbia County to the PA DEP for review and approval. Forest McClintock seconded the motion. All aye.
- Tim Benner made the motion to re-appoint Attorney Anthony McDonald as Solicitor for 2013 and 2014 with no increase. Gary Steinruck seconded the motion. All aye.
- Forest McClintock made the motion to retain Labor Attorney Eric Brown on an as needed basis. Tim Benner seconded the motion. All aye.

- Linda Kashner made the motion to retain Borough Engineer Dennis Peters P.E.,P.L.S. Gary Steinruck seconded the motion. All aye.
- Gary Steinruck made the motion to retain Kevin Nester P.E. Wastewater Consulting Engineer. Tim Benner seconded the motion. Tim Benner asked why CET was needed if the Borough already retains Peters as engineers. After a discussion Chris Moonis will look into the possibility of Peter's doing all Borough engineer work.
- Gary Steinruck made the motion to table the motion to retain Kevin Nester P. E. Waster Consulting Engineer until further information is available regarding Peter's Consultants. Tim Benner seconded the motion. All aye.
- Forest McClintock asked that the skateboarding ordinance be up for discussion on the January 7, 2013 meeting agenda.

#### FINANCE:

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

#### GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Harold Kitchen asked Cindy Bachman about letters that residents have been receiving regarding insurance of water lines.
- Mr. Kitchen asked if a copy of the IPMC is available for residents. Chris Moonis explained that this is a thick book and would not be easily copied. Anyone is welcome to come to the Borough Office to review the building code at any time during business hours.
- Harold Kitchen told Chief Kopitsky about someone he knows who is willing to look at the speed trailer. Chief Kopitsky and council thanked Mr. Kitchen for the information.
- Tim Benner made the motion to allow Mr. Kitchen's friend to look at the speed trailer at no cost to the Borough. Forest McClintock seconded the motion. All aye.

#### ADJOURNMENT:

- Forest McClintock made the motion to adjourn. Tim Benner seconded the motion. All aye.

#### MEETING ADJOURNED:

Submitted by:  
Kimberly Rhoades  
Secretary