

CATAWISSA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, DECEMBER 5, 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, Joe Benware, Linda Kashner, Barb Reese, Mayor Achy, Manager Fred Hess, and Attorney Anthony McDonald.

READING OF MINUTES:

- Barb Reese made the motion seconded by Linda Neyer to dispense with the reading of and approve the minutes of the previous monthly meeting. All aye.

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Harold Kitchen questioned the delinquent late notice process. A late notice that is only \$.10. Linda Kashner explained that this was a mistake and will not happen in the future.
- Tim Benner spoke about the problem with stray/feral cats in his neighborhood. Mr. Haney suggested to call PA Pets for traps. Tony McDonald explained the law regarding cats. You are not allowed to do anything to cats, you can only trap them to fix them and release them. If there is proof of feeding the stray cats the person can be cited. When a feral cat has been fixed the ear is notched.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- The thank you note from the Halloween Parade Committee was read. Linda Kashner suggested the public speak to the Parade Committee regarding any complaints.
- The Columbia/Montour CBA meeting will be held Thursday, January 12, 2017 at Edith's Kitchen beginning at 6:00 p.m.

MAYOR:

- Mayor Achy asked that the blue handicap parking lines on North Second Street be repainted white since the handicap parking sign has been removed. The yellow lines at Blass' garage should be painted also.
- Mayor Achy asked about a law against blowing leaves into the roadway. Mr. Haney will make sure the Mayor receives the ordinance.

MANAGER:

- Manager, Fred Hess read the work report for borough employees. Mr. Hess thanked Abraczinskas Nursery for the donation of the tree at Eyer park.
- Fred has been working on the police contract, the non-uniform contract, the MS-4 project, the community center project, the sewer plant project and work with past due utility billings.

WATER:

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

CODE ENFORCEMENT:

- Code Enforcement Officer, James Haney reported that the office investigated 19 issues, sent 5 letters, hung 2 door hangers, wrote 2 citations and was in court 2 days.
- The office received a request from the Planning commission regarding a sub-division. Council must approve or deny the request. Mr. Haney explained the request.
- Construction will not begin on the S. Third Street condos until at least next spring.

POLICE:

- Police Chief, Joshua Laidacker reported during the month of November the department responded to 220 calls for service, as reported by the Columbia County Communications Center.
- The 2006 Ford Crown Victoria that was sold has been removed.
- The Neighborhood Watch meeting was held on November 15th with Scott Danowsky presenting information on Tactical Medicine and current drug trends. There will be no Neighborhood Watch meeting in December they will resume in January 2017.
- Officer Hayes has returned to duty as of November 28th. Officer Hagemeyer remains off the schedule due to medical.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

- Joe Benware had nothing to report at this time.

UTILITIES:

- Joe Benware reported 113 electric late notices and 54 sewer late notices. Right now the outstanding electric balance is \$36,201. The outstanding sewer balance is \$3,983.

PARKS & RECREATION:

- Linda Kashner had nothing to report at this time.

PROPERTY/BUILDING MAINTENANCE:

- Gary Steinruck reported the sewer plant project is very close to completion.
- The Community Center project is progressing.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION:

- Linda Kashner reported the General Fund balance is \$73649.00 the Electric balance is -\$12,566, and the Sewer balance is -\$742.36.

UNION NEGOTIATION:

- Gary Steinruck reported the committee is presently negotiating with the Chief of Police and the non-uniform employees.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

- Barb Reese had nothing to report at this time.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- **Barb Reese made the motion** seconded by Linda Kashner to adopt the 2017 budget. All aye.
- **Doug Krum made the motion** seconded by Linda Neyer to adopt Ordinance 2016-05 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.
- **Linda Kashner made the motion** seconded by Barb Reese to adopt Ordinance 2016-06 changing the tax millage rate from 5.42 to 5.67 to offset the loss of the Per Capita and Occupation Tax. All aye.
- **Linda Kashner made the motion** seconded by Barb Reese to accept the bid for new windows at the Community Center from Gray Builders in the amount of \$19,900.00. Gray Builders were the only bid. All aye.
- **Doug Krum made the motion** seconded by Linda Neyer to donate \$2,000 to the Columbia County Traveling Library. The money will come out of the Economic and Development budget. The donation request will be revisited next year. All aye.
- **Linda Kashner made the motion** seconded by Linda Neyer to table the vote on ½ sewer rate until Tony McDonald can get more information from council. All aye.
- **Doug Krum made the motion** seconded by Linda Kashner to adopt the Borough's participation with Columbia County in the MS-4 program at a cost of \$7,000. All aye.
- **Linda Neyer made the motion** seconded by Joe Benware to appoint Fred Hess, Borough Manager as the Borough representative to the Columbia County MS-4 program. All aye.
- **Barb Reese made the motion** seconded by Joe Benware to accept the uniform police contract effective 2016 thru 2018. All aye.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Linda Kashner made the motion** seconded by Linda Neyer to purchase \$25 gift cards at Wal-Mart for full time Borough employees. All aye. The funds for this must be taken from electric fund.
- **Barb Reese made the motion** seconded by Joe Benware to approve the meeting dates for 2017. All aye.
- **Linda Kashner made the motion** seconded by Barb Reese to accept the resignation of Brandon Auten effective December 16, 2016. All aye.
- **Joe Benware made the motion** seconded by Barb Reese to advertise for the vacated position in the electric department. All aye.
- **Barb Reese made the motion** seconded by Joe Benware to donate 10 \$10 Weis gift cards to the Senior Center for a raffle. Also 2 more (1 for Deb Dombroski and 1 for her assistant). All aye.
- Mr. Haney expressed his displeasure at not receiving a gift certificate for part time employees.

- **Joe Benware made the motion** seconded by Barb Reese to accept the sub-division proposed by the County known as the Kurzawa property. After a discussion and explanation. All aye.

FINANCE:

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

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- No one spoke at this time.

Council President, Gary Steinruck announced an executive session following adjournment.

ADJOURNMENT:

- **Doug Krum made the motion** seconded by Jay Roberts to adjourn. All aye.

MEETING ADJOURNED:

Submitted by:
Kimberly Rhoades
Secretary