

CATAWISSA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, 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.

ROLL CALL:

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

READING OF MINUTES:

- Barb Reese made the motion to dispense with the reading of and approve the minutes of the previous month's meeting. Linda Kashner seconded the motion. Linda Kashner corrected the spelling of to on Page 4 regarding the adoption of the snow removal policy. All aye.

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Barry Krum does not think the Borough Manager is saving the Borough any money.
- Doug Krum does not think a Council meeting should be held during the day.
- Doug asked about salaries listed in the proposed 2014 budget.
- Barry Krum questioned the proposed Chief of Police salary for 2014.
- Zack Pile presented Council with information about the Susquehanna Greenway River Town Project. This is a free program for towns along the Susquehanna River.

CORRESPONDENC:

- A letter was presented to Council from the Sons of the American Legion Post 273 seeking sponsors to promote the 3rd Annual Gun Raffle on January 26, 2014.
- A "Thank You" letter was received from the Catawissa Halloween Parade Committee for the support during this year's Halloween Parade.
- Catawissa resident Thomas Long submitted a letter requesting an exception of the "Right Wheel to Curb" law for his area.

MAYOR:

- Mayor Frank J. Achy had no report to offer Council at this time.

Staff and Authority Reports

MANAGER'S REPORT

- Borough Manager Chris Moonis gave a summary report of the duties completed by the employees during the month of November.
- Chris received a quote of \$178,000 for flood insurance at the sewer plant. Chris will be exploring other alternatives.
- Barb Reese asked for an update on the progress of the flood buy out project. Chris and Tony McDonald explained that the Borough received the draw down money this week and are hoping to complete the closing within the next two weeks.

- Barb Reese asked for an update about the progress of the Borough web site. Chris Moonis explained that the web site should be up and running in the spring.
- Linda Kashner asked if there has been any progress on the Maittlin-Harris property title transfer. Tony McDonald explained that there has been no progress since he updated Council a few months ago. The lenders say they will get to it when they get to it.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:

- Code Enforcement Officer James Haney's report includes the month of October due to his absence at last month's meeting. Mr. Haney handled 48 (forty-eight) issues or complaints, issued 17 (seventeen) warnings, issued 8 (eight) building or dumpster permits and spent 4 (four) days in court.
- According to Mr. Haney the South Third Street project has asked to test drills to be done which is progress for the project.

POLICE:

- Police Chief Anthony Kopitsky reported that during the month of November 2013 the police had 107 (one hundred thirty-seven) activity reports as recorded by the Columbia County Communications Center.
- All the cars are working well at this point in the year as reported by Chief Kopitsky.
- The three new officers have begun training.
- Chief Kopitsky reported that the "Drug Take Back" program collected 94 (ninety-four) pounds of drugs with a total of 38200 pound for Pennsylvania.
- Senior Officer Laidacker has begun training and is progressing well.
- Chief Kopitsky announced that since this will be his last council meeting he would like to take the time to thank all of Council and residence of the borough for the years of support.

Committee Reports

PUBLIC SAFETY:

- Committee Chairman Forest McClintock stated that with the addition of Officer Allison Souchuck and Officer Rodney Witherite the police department is now fully staffed.

UTILITIES:

- Committee Chairperson Linda Kashner reported 108 (one hundred eight) electric late notices and 58 (fifty-eight) sewer late notices were sent this month. Last month 4 (four) limiters were installed with 1 (one) reinstalled.
- Linda asked council to take the customers that were sent to the District Justice and found guilty to Sheriff Sale. Tony McDonald explained that the District Justice finding must be certified and filed at the Prothonotary's Office before the issue can be brought to the Sheriff.
- Forest McClintock made the motion take customers that have been found guilty by the District Justice for non-payment utility bills to Sheriff Sale. Gary Steinruck seconded the motion. The Borough has the right to refuse items if they were not sold. The Borough can take the person's bank account. All aye.

PARKS & RECREATION:

- Committee Co-Chairperson Barb Reese announced that “Santa Day” was a rousing success. There were 73 (seventy-three) kids that registered for prizes and get their pictures with Santa. Barb thanked everyone that not only sponsored the event but helped plan and execute a wonderful event.

ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

- Committee Chairman Barb Reese announced that there is a new photography studio at the old Maxi building.

PROPERTY/BUILDING MAINTENANCE CHAIRMAN:

- Committee Chairman Gary Steinruck presented information regarding a grant for the LED lighting proposed for the Borough.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION CHAIRMAN:

- Committee Chairman Scott Keefer stated the 2014 budget is the only issue for the committee at this time.

UNION NEGOTIATION:

- Committee Chairman Scott Keefer had nothing to report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Barb Reese made the motion to approve the 2014 meeting dates and direct the secretary to publish in the newspaper of general circulation. Forest McClintock seconded the motion. All aye.
- Joe Benware made the motion to reaffirm rates of taxation levied in Catawissa Borough remain the same as was levied in 2013. Linda Kashner seconded the motion. Linda asked what the tax rates. Chris explained that the millage rate is at 5.4, LST is \$10 and the Fire rate is 1. Harold Kitchen asked where the LST tax is distributed. Linda explained that according to law the LST does not need to go to anyone. Forest McClintock asked where the Borough was going to distribute the tax. Council decided to budget the tax as General fund revenue. All aye.
- Forest McClintock made the motion to approve the 2014 Electric Fund Budget. Tim Benner seconded the motion. Linda Kashner clarified that this budget does not include a rate increase. All aye.
- Scott Keefer made the motion to approve the 2014 Sewer Fund Budget. Forest McClintock seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Tim Benner-yes, Forest McClintock-yes, Joe Benware-yes, Gary Steinruck-no, Linda Kashner-no, Barb Reese-no, Scott Keefer-yes. Motion passes.
- Joe Benware made the motion to approve the 2014 General Fund Budget. Scott Keefer seconded the motion. Linda Kashner and Gary Steinruck disagreed with the salaries. Roll call vote: Tim Benner-abstain, Forest McClintock-yes, Joe Benware-yes, Gary Steinruck-no, Linda Kashner-no, Barb Reese-no, Scott Keefer-yes. Attorney McDonald explained that if a budget is not passed the Borough would stop business on January 1, 2014. Attorney McDonald recommended that the Council vote for the budget and not turn the vote over to the Mayor for a tie break. Tim asked to discuss the Chris’s salary that is in question. Scott Keefer explained some of the things Chris has done for the Borough through the year. Code Officer James Haney

spoke of the work Chris put in just for the flood victims and the dollar store implementation. The incoming Council will vote on contracts for Manager Moonis and Chief Laidacker.

- Forest McClintock made the motion for a roll call vote for approval of the 2014 General Fund Budget. Scott Keefer seconded the motion. Roll call: Tim Benner-yes, Forest McClintock-yes, Joe Benware-yes, Gary Steinruck-no Linda Kashner-no, Barb Reese-no, Scott Keefer-yes. Motion passes.
- Joe Benware made the motion to approve the 2014 Liquid Fuels Budget, Senior Center Budget and the Eyer Fund Budget. Forest McClintock seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Tim Benner-yes, Forest McClintock-yes, Joe Benware-yes, Gary Steinruck-yes, Linda Kashner-yes, Barb Reese-yes, Scott Keefer-yes. Motion passes.
- Barb Reese made the motion to approve the 2014 Capital Budget. Joe Benware seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Tim Benner-yes, Forest McClintock-yes, Joe Benware-yes, Gary Steinruck-yes, Linda Kashner-yes, Barb Reese-yes, Scott Keefer-yes. Motion passes.
- Linda Kashner made the motion to re-appoint Solicitor Anthony McDonald, Esq. Gary Steinruck seconded the motion. Attorney McDonald stated that his rates will not change from 2013-2014. All aye.
- Forest McClintock made the motion to re-appoint Labor Attorney Eric Brown with a 1% rate increase. Linda Kashner seconded the motion. All aye.
- Joe Benware made the motion to re-appoint Dennis R. Peters, P.D., P.L.S. as Borough and Wastewater Engineer. Gary Steinruck seconded the motion. All aye.
- Donna Snyder asked about the finalization of the buy-out process. Attorney McDonald will contact Ms. Snyder with a day and time for closing.

FINANCE:

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

Forest McClintock took this time to thank Linda Kashner and Barb Reese for their service to the Borough of Catawissa.

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- No guests spoke at this time.

ADJOURNMENT:

- Barb Reese made the motion to adjourn. Linda Kashner seconded the motion. All aye.

MEETING ADJOURNED:

Submitted by:

Kimberly Rhoades

Secretary