

CATAWISSA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY February 6, 2017 – 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 Frank “Jeff” Achy, Manager Fred Hess, Attorney Anthony McDonald.

READING OF MINUTES:

- Motion by Barb Reese to approve the minutes from previous meeting of June 6, 2016, 2nd by Linda Kashner

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- There were no guests to be heard

CORRESPONDENCE:

- There was no correspondence to report.

MAYOR:

- Mayor Jeff Achy stated that he would like to congratulate the Police with regard to Fisher Avenue with stopping cars on Sunday as he heard several incidences coming across his scanner.
- Mayor Jeff Achy also noted that he wants to speak to Manager Fred Hess regarding traffic traveling the wrong direction on Quinn Avenue.

MANAGER’S REPORT:

- Manager Fred Hess reported his office worked on the Chief of Police, the Non-Uniform Contracts and the CBDG contract for the Pfahler Street paving grant along with some personnel issues.
- Manager Fred Hess also worked on past due electric accounts.
- Manager Fred Hess reported during the past month the Light Department worked on cutting and chipping brush, plowing snow, salt and cindering the roads. The Light Department also installed some new lights at the Borough shed and removed Christmas decorations.
- Manager Fred Hess reported the Street Department picked up new trash barrels. He thanked Catawissa Wood Products for donating eight new trash barrels that are being used on Main Street. The Street Department refurbished and made some new lids for the barrels which they then painted. The Street Department plowed, salted, cindered and removed and installed new road signs. They also worked on cleaning and maintaining equipment. Christmas trees were picked up.
- Manager Fred Hess reported operator Bob Dunkelberger stated the Sewer Plant is running smoothly and is being tested daily.

WATER:

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

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:

- Code Enforcement Officer, Brian Rhone, stated for the month of January, 2017 the Zoning Department had (26) investigations, (2) door hangers, sent (1) letter, issued (4) verbal warnings, (1) zoning permits and issued (15) citations. There were no days in court.

POLICE:

- Police Chief, Joshua Laidacker reported that during the month of January 2017 the department responded to (173) calls for service, as reported by the Columbia County Communications Center.
- Chief Laidacker noted one of the department's Tasers was taken out of service. (6) working Tasers remain. At the request of the Mayor and the Public Safety Committee, the Chief has researched the cost of replacement Tasers.
- Chief Laidacker also mentioned that on March 9, 2017 there is a CPR class that all officers are required to attend.
- Chief Laidacker reported Officer Hagemeyer remains off the schedule due to medical. (2) candidates were interviewed by the Public Safety Committee on January 27, 2017 for part-time positions.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

- Joe Benware stated the Tasers program and new hire are on the agenda to go over.

UTILITIES:

- Joe Benware stated there were (105) late utility accounts. Door hangers are to be issued. (16) limiters were installed with (2) still remaining on. The amount of past due electric bills is \$39,016.34 with sewer being \$3,458.14.
- Linda Kashner noted that after door hangers were issued and payments for the door hangers and limiters we were down to \$26,000.
- President Gary Steinruck stated that each month the Council's packets include a detailed utilities late report. It was agreed to change that to including the total amount of past due instead of a detailed report.

PARKS & RECREATION:

- Committee Chairperson, Linda Kashner announced the following scheduled dates: Dumpster day is April 22nd from 8 a.m. to noon; Town wide yard sale is May 27th; Kids Day is June 24th at the Old Pavilion; Concert Series starts June 27th, Tuesday nights; Senior Day is August 18th.
- Linda Kashner also mentioned there is discussion about having a tree decorating and lighting at Eyer Park during Christmastime.

PROPERTY & BUILDING MAINTENANCE:

- Council President, Gary Steinruck reported they had a walk thru with the contractors and CDGB people at the Senior Center. What was funded passed inspection and the Borough should be getting an occupancy permit. Windows have to be installed and will need to be painted.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION:

- Committee Chairperson, Linda Kashner read the Borough's account balances.

- Linda Kashner also reported the auditors have started on the 2016 audit.

UNION:

- Gary Steinruck, Council President stated there was (1) session with the public works which is ongoing. A tentative agreement was reached with the Chief of Police.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

- Councilwoman Barb Reese stated she has a meeting scheduled next Monday, 6:30 at the Senior Center with Josh Nespoli. They are trying to get people to answer questionnaires, which is being called "Catawissa Dreaming", to change Catawissa for the better.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- No unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Council to adopt Resolution 2017-3 supporting designation as a Susquehanna Greenway River Town. Motion made by Barbara Reese, 2nd by Doug Krum. All Aye
- Council appointed Linda Haines to the Zoning Hearing Board for a (3) year term. Motion made by Linda Kashner, 2nd by Barbara Reese. All Aye
- Council adopted Resolution Number 2017-02 Columbia County 2017 Hazard Mitigation Plan. Motion made by Linda Kashner, 2nd by Linda Neyer. All Aye
- Council may accept a maintenance agreement from the Verdin Company for the town clock at a cost of \$580.00 per year. Motion made by Joe Benware, 2nd by Doug Krum. All Opposed. Motion did not pass.
- Council to hire Jeremy Moyer as a part-time police officer. Motion made by Doug Krum, 2nd by Joe Benware. All Aye.
- Council may accept a Taser proposal for the Police Department. Motion for discussion by Joe Benware, 2nd by Doug Krum. After discussion it was agreed to purchase (2) Tasers for up to \$5,000. Motion by Gary Steinruck, 2nd by Linda Kashner. There was (1) Nay by Jay Roberts, (6) Aye. Motion carried.
- Council to approve the purchase of (28) light poles at a total cost of \$9968.00 for the Electric Department. Motion made by Linda Neyer, 2nd by Jay Roberts. All Aye
- Council may approve to have Tony McDonald draw up a lease agreement with the Catawissa Little League for the piece of ground (formally the Snyder residence) next to the Little League Field. The yearly lease amount is to be \$1.00. Motion made by Linda Kashner, 2nd by Linda Neyer. All Aye
- Council may appoint Nancy Yost as Interim Secretary. Motion made by Jay Roberts, 2nd by Barbara Reese. All Aye
- Council may hire Chase Petty as a new employee for the Electric Department. Motion by Barbara Reese, 2nd by Jay Roberts. All Aye
- Council may approve the purchase of (3) interior doors and the materials to install them at the Borough Hall Building. All labor is to be supplied by Borough employees. Motion by Barbara Reese, 2nd by Linda Neyer. All Aye
- Council may approve advertising for bids to have the Cara Park Pavilion pad cemented and the replacement of the Quaker Meeting House steps. Motion made by Barbara Reese, 2nd by Doug Krum. All Aye

- Council may accept a (2) year contract between the Chief of Police and Catawissa Borough. President Gary Steinruck read details of the contract. Motion made by Linda Kashner, 2nd by Barbara Reese. All Aye

FINANCE PAYMENT OF BILLS:

- Motion to accept payment of bills as written made by Linda Neyer, 2nd by Jay Roberts. All Aye

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Tim Benner said he is having lunch with Jim Eister and will talk to him about Catawissa's clock.
- Linda Kashner would like to make the official name of the old pavilion to Cara Park and the new pavilion the Charles Nesbitt pavilion.
- Linda Kashner also would like a handicap bathroom at the 4th street park.
- Linda Kashner stated there should be a return key policy due to having issues with people returning keys to the Borough Office. A notice will be typed up stating keys must be returned within (48) of there will be a \$10.00 fee assessed.

ADJORNMENT:

- Motion made by Jay Roberts, 2nd by Doug Krum. All Aye

MEETING ADJORNED.

Submitted by:
Nancy M Yost
Treasurer