

CATAWISSA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2014 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, Connie Benware, Jay Roberts, Gary Steinruck, Joe Benware, Forest McClintock, Doug Krum, Manager Chris Moonis, Attorney Anthony McDonald.
- Mayor Frank Achy 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. Jay Roberts seconded the motion. All aye.

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Resident John Slotterback asked if something can be done about the noise from a garbage hauler.
- Mr. Slotterback asked if there is a "No Airbrakes" sign coming down River Hill.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- The Catawissa Hose Company #1 submitted the 2014 non-emergency activities list. Forest McClintock made the motion to accept the non-emergency list submitted. Joe Benware seconded the motion. All aye.
- Scott Keefer made the motion to appoint Lina Haney for a three year term to the Zoning Hearing Board. Forest McClintock seconded the motion. All aye.
- The Catawissa Fire Company #1 third quarter of 2013 emergency report is on file.

MAYOR:

- The Mayor was not in attendance for a report.

Staff and Authority Reports

MANAGER'S REPORT:

- Manager Chris Moonis gave a summary report of the employees' activities for the month.

WATER:

- Water Authority Superintendent Cindy Bachman updated the council on the Source Water Committee information.
- Cindy asked council to please consider continued participation in the "Drug Take Back" program. This program is a DEA sponsored program and helps to keep drugs from contaminating the water supply. Bloomsburg and Berwick police stations have the permanent box for drugs to be dropped off at any time.
- Through a DEP grant the Water Authority will be working to educate the public about the proper care and treatment of septic systems to prevent contaminating the water supply.
- Cindy explained the Coalition zoning of the area regarding source water protection.

- Forest McClintock made the motion to review a letter written by Cindy Bachman in support of the Coalition zoning regulations. Doug Krum seconded the motion. Cindy will draft a letter for approval at next months' meeting. All aye.
- Jim Haney asked Cindy about the Catawissa Creek Watershed signs.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:

- Code Enforcement Officer James Haney reported that during the month of January his office issued seven (7) warning for not clearing snow from sidewalks. Mr. Haney wrote two (2) citations of which one has been paid and the other went to court. Linda Kashner asked Jim what constitutes "clearing of sidewalks". She has seen some sidewalks with only a path. Jim explained that nothing in the ordinance states the amount of space needed to be cleared.

POLICE:

- Police Chief Joshua Laidacker reported that during the month of January the police had 164 activity reports as recorded by the Columbia County Communications Center.
- Chief reported that the vehicles are working well with only regularly scheduled maintenance needed.
- Two (2) of the officers have completed the mandatory in service training this month. Four of the officers attended SFST training this month as well.
- The department has received a generous donation from the VFW. This money will be designated for rifles.
- Chief Laidacker has had Kinn Computers evaluate the computer systems at the Police Station. Based on their analysis the main computer will need to be replaced as soon as possible.
- Officers Allison Souchuck and Ryan Travelpiece received a letter of commendation from Chief Laidacker for their investigation of a local illegal drug lab.

Committee Reports

PUBLIC SAFETY:

- Committee Chairman Forest McClintock commended Manager Chris Moonis for a job well done.

UTILITIES:

- Committee Chairperson Connie Benware reported eighty-three (83) late sewer letters and one hundred fifty-six (156) late electric late letters were mailed. A limiter was installed last month and has not been removed.

PARKS AND RECREATION:

- Committee Chairman Joe Benware announced "Dumpster Day" will be held on April 26, 2014 from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

PROPERTY/BUILDING MAINTENANCE:

- Committee Chairman Gary Steinruck updated council on the issue of a street lighting on Johnson Ave.
- Along with Harry Young Light Department Superintendent Gary is looking into better LED street lighting.

- J.J. Fuel will be fixing the furnace at the Senior Center. Jay Roberts asked if J.J. Fuel is the best company to purchase fuel oil from. He suggested Bloom Oil. Scott Keefer suggested council look into a new furnace system for next year.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION:

- Committee Chairperson Scott Keefer reported that the Borough is receiving resumes for the Borough Manager position and will be conducting interviews soon.

NON-UNIFORM NEGOTIATION:

- Committee Chairman Scott Keefer informed everyone that AFSCME has contacted the committee with proposed dates to resume negotiations.
- Mr. Keefer thanked Chris Moonis for all his hard work.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Doug Krum asked if Mr. Moonis' final pay has been determined. Scott Keefer and Forest McClintock explained that a meeting of the personnel committee will be held soon to resume negotiations.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Forest McClintock made the motion to pass a Designation of Agent Resolution naming James Haney as Agent, for the purposes of executing for and in the behalf of Catawissa Borough and Catawissa Borough Council, all the required forms and documents for the purpose of obtaining financial assistance under Project FEMA-4030-DR-PA-054/055 and PEMA #4030-19-246 and all separate but related Official Applications, including but not limited to Applications 01, 02, and 04 under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) at a pay rate of \$23.00 per hour. Joe Benware seconded the motion. All aye.
- Scott Keefer made the motion to advertise and hire for the position of part time Code Enforcement Officer. Joe Benware seconded the motion. Mr. McClintock asked if this would be in conjunction with Mr. Haney. Chris Moonis explained that the budget allows for 25 hrs. per week. The two (2) code enforcement officers would work out the work schedule. All aye.
- Connie Benware made the motion to pass a resolution allowing Mayor F. Jeff Achy to appropriate his remaining salary for 2014 and redirect the salary to the Police Equipment Fund. Jay Roberts seconded the motion. All aye.
- Forest McClintock made the motion to advertise to hire a full-time/part-time police officer. Scott Keefer seconded the motion. There was a discussion regarding full time or part time, pay and benefits. All aye.
- Jay Roberts made the motion to appoint Robert J. Dunkelberger as alternative Emergency Management Coordinator.
- Council President Scott Keefer struck from the agenda authorizing Chief Laidacker to attend the 32nd Annual Training Conference for the Public Employer Labor Relations Advisory Service in State College, PA from March 19-21, 2014 and provide for the cost of attending, hotel accommodations (if needed) and mileage reimbursement.
- Scott Keefer made the motion to appoint Rose Hagerman to write grants for the Degenstein Foundation, CDBG and Liquid Fuels at a rate of \$18.00 hourly. Forest McClintock seconded the motion. All aye.
- Jay Roberts asked if non-license vehicles be allowed on back streets. Chief Laidacker explained this is a state law.

- Code Enforcement Officer James Haney requested permission to participate in the interviews of the second Code Officer.
- Mr. Haney thanked Chris Moonis for all the work he has done for the Borough.
- Connie Benware asked if the Borough workers could clean the snow off some of the side streets.
- Sharon Krum complained that the workers are going up the wrong side of Fisher Avenue when plowing.
- Barb Reese asked about an economic development committee. Scott Keefer explained that he is waiting for new council members to become acclimated before reinstalling the committee.
- Barb Reese asked about the web site.
- Linda Kashner asked if the \$160,000 electric CD was reimbursed after being used for flood expenses. Chris explained that the Borough will pay the loans back before the Borough will reimburse the CD.
- Linda Kashner asked if the cost for fixing the roof at the Senior Center was reimbursed to the Eyer Fund. Chris stated that it was reimbursed as was the cost of the Quaker Meeting House repairs.
- Linda Kashner asked if the hiring policy has been followed.
- Gar Thomas contacted Linda Kashner regarding insurance.
- Pat Hess asked if the Borough Manager will be given the same insurance alternative as a new police officer.
- Harold Kitchen reminded council the need for NIMS training.
- Pat Hess why council does not do grants. Council explained that they have appointed Rose to apply for grants.

FINANCE:

- Forest McClintock made the motion to accept the payment of bills as written. Joe Benware seconded the motion. All aye.

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- No guests spoke at this time.

ADJOURNMENT:

- Forest McClintock made the motion to adjourn. Joe Benware seconded the motion.

MEETING ADJOURNED:

Submitted by:

Kimberly Rhoades

Secretary