

# CATAWISSA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

**DATE: March 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, Linda Kashner, Barb Reese, Mayor Frank “Jeff” Achy, Manager Fred Hess, Attorney Anthony McDonald. Joe Benware was absent.

## READING OF MINUTES:

- Motion to dispense reading of and approve minutes of February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017 and February 20, 2017 with a correction to the spelling of the name Linda Haines. Motion by Linda Kashner 2<sup>nd</sup> by Barbara Reese. All Aye

## GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- There were no guests to be heard.

## CORRESPONDENCE:

- Columbia/Montour CBA is giving a presentation on Opioid & Heroin on Thursday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 6:00 PM.
- Catawissa Water Authority letter to Council members with regard to the Authority’s concerns over the substantial increase of water consumption at the Sewer Plant.

## MAYOR:

- Mayor Jeff Achy stated that he would like to have an extra stop sign at Quinn Avenue.

## MANAGER’S REPORT:

- Manager Fred Hess reported his office worked on Non-Uniform Contract, past due utility accounts and personnel issues. Manager Fred Hess also stated, with being a person short, he has helped cover the Borough Office a lot.
- Manager Fred Hess also worked on past due electric accounts.
- Manager Fred Hess reported during the past month the Light Department worked on brush removal, read meters, posted door hangers, took down the star and put up the cross on the bluff, etc.
- Manager Fred Hess reported the Street Department has been plowing snow, patching potholes and servicing equipment. They also attended road service management classes.
- Manager Fred Hess stated the Sewer Plant is business as usual. No issues.

## WATER:

- Water Authority Superintendent, Cindy Bachman said the Source Water Protection Committee would like Council’s permission to allow the Police Department to hold a Drug Takeback day on April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017 from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Motion to accept made by Doug Krum, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Linda Kashner. All Aye

- The Water Authority gave notice to the Kurzawa/Pursel Subdivision that there will now be water service available to those lots.

#### CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:

- Nothing to report.

#### POLICE:

- Police Chief, Joshua Laidacker reported that during the month of January 2017 the department responded to (233) calls for service, as reported by the Columbia County Communications Center.
- Chief Laidacker noted the radio microphone in the SUV was replaced. The SUV fuel sensor has malfunctioned. It is being worked on to determine the problem.
- Chief Laidacker also mentioned another of the department's Tasers was taken out of service during February. Two new CEW weapons were ordered from Taser.
- Chief Laidacker stated on March 9<sup>th</sup> a CPR/First Aid class has been scheduled for all officers who need it. On March 29<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>, Officer Gallie is scheduled to attend the annual PNOA Conference. Officer Gallie will also attend the mandatory JNET training on April 6<sup>th</sup>.
- Chief Laidacker reported Officer Hagemeyer remains off the schedule due to medical. Officer Moyer has begun his field training and is progressing well.

#### PUBLIC SAFETY:

- Nothing to report

#### UTILITIES:

- Linda Kashner noted door hangers were to be issued on Wednesday. There remains one limiter on.

#### PARKS & RECREATION:

- Committee Chairperson, Linda Kashner announced Dumpster day has been changed to April 29<sup>th</sup>. June 24<sup>th</sup> will be Kids Day. Summer Breeze series will start with the Catawissa Military Band the last Tuesday in June.
- The Parks & Recreation Committee is looking to do a clean-up and repair at the softball field. They would like to have volunteers to help.
- Planning for Senior Day continues.

#### PROPERTY & BUILDING MAINTENANCE:

- Council President, Gary Steinruck reported the windows are in at the Senior Center.
- A motion was made by Barbara Reese to not move forward with making a bid on the PNC Bank building. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jay Roberts. All Aye

#### 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 the Public Works negotiations were ongoing.

#### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

- Councilwoman Barb Reese stated the Committee had a meeting with Josh and have decided to try and expand the Catawissa Halloween Parade, such as a car show, etc. to bring people into town earlier in the afternoon.
- The Catawissa Borough website has an online survey for Catawissa Dreaming.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- No unfinished business.

#### COUNCIL ADJOURNED FOR AN EXECUTIVE SESSION.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

- A motion was made to adopt a Settlement Agreement and General Release between Catawissa Borough and Kimberly Rhoades in form presented and authorize Council President to execute said agreement. Motion by Jay Roberts, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Linda Neyer. All Aye
- A motion to accept the notice of the intent of Kimberly Rhoades to retire as of June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Motion by Barbara Reese, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Doug Krum. All Aye
- A motion to get a detailed quote from Larson Design Group for the South Street Culvert/Drainage Project. Motion by Barbara Reese 2<sup>nd</sup> by Linda Kashner. All Aye
- A motion to advertise for bids on the painting project at the Community Center. Motion by Barbara Reese, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Linda Neyer. All Aye
- A discussion on streets to be re-surfaced. Motion to discuss made by Doug Krum, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jay Roberts. The motion was then made to advertise for bids. Motion made by Jay Roberts, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Doug Krum. All Aye
- A motion to approve the Catawissa Hose Co. #1 non-emergency activities for 2017. Motion made by Doug Krum, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jay Roberts. All Aye
- A motion to appoint Fred Hess as Chief Administrative Officer for the Borough Pension Plans. Motion made by Linda Kashner, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Barbara Reese. All Aye
- A motion to adopt Resolution No. 2017-05 for the Catawissa Borough to adopt the 2017 Municipal Employees Retirement Fund. Motion made by Linda Neyer, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Linda Kashner. All Aye
- A motion to adopt the PEMA Designation of Agent Resolution naming Fred Hess as the Designated PEMA Agent for Catawissa Borough. Motion mad by Barbara Reese, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Linda Neyer. All Aye
- A discussion on the removal of the "Welcome to Catawissa" signs. Motion made by Doug Krum, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Linda Kasher. After the discussion a motion was made to take the Welcome to Catawissa signs down. Motion made by Doug Krum, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Barbara Reese. All Aye
- A motion to advertise for a Borough Secretary. Motion made by Linda Kashner, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Linda Neyer. All Aye
- Cindy Bachman requested that underground utilities should be upgraded before resurfacing streets.

**FINANCE PAYMENT OF BILLS:**

- Motion to accept payment of bills as written made by Barbara Reese, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Linda Neyer. All Aye

**GUESTS TO BE HEARD:**

- Harry Young asked if the settlement with Kimberly Rhoades is open to the public or if it is sealed. Council informed him it is public.
- Patty Hess mention about the bank behind the Old Borough Barn needing repaired.
- Tim Benner stated the softball field cement by the backstop needs to be filled in. He also mentioned there is not a Catawissa Teener team this year.

**ADJORNMENT:**

- Motion made by Linda Kashner, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Linda Neyer. All Aye

**MEETING ADJORNED.**

Submitted by:  
Nancy M Yost  
Treasurer