

CATAWISSA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY April 10, 2017 – 6:30 P.M.

An Executive Session Was Held at 5:45 PM Prior to the Council Meeting

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, Manager Fred Hess, Attorney Anthony McDonald. Absent was: Mayor Frank "Jeff" Achy

READING OF MINUTES:

- Motion by Joe Benware to approve the minutes from previous meeting of March 6th, 2017 and the previous monthly meeting. 2nd by Linda Neyer. All Aye.

CORRECTION OF MINUTES:

- Motion to approve a date correction for minutes of February 6, 2017 monthly meeting. Motion by Barbara Reese 2nd by Joe Benware. All Aye.

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Chad Sokol started a discussion with Council concerning the Porta Potties, which are located near Cara Park, being locked.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- A letter was received from Catawissa Township stating the Township is going to participate in Catawissa Borough's annual Dumpster Day, Saturday April 29, 2017.
- An email received from Brian Fosse, Fire Chief of Montour Township was read which commended the job of Catawissa Borough's road crew during the major snow storm in March.

MAYOR:

- Mayor Jeff Achy was absent.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

- Manager Fred Hess reported his office worked on Non-Uniform Contract negotiations, past due utility accounts, a pension audit, personnel issues, the Pfahler Grant Program, WWTP PEMA Lee Flood funding and other day to day business.
- Manager Fred Hess stated the Electric Department tested all 25 KV transformers, repaired the Senior Center Roof, installed new street lights on Walnut, North Fourth and South Fourth Streets, changed transformers in Catawissa, cut brush at the Sewer plant, plowed snow and removed snow from Main Street and the side streets.
- Manager Fred Hess reported during the past month the Street Department worked on brush pick-up around town, checked playground equipment, refurbished and installed new signs in the Borough, plowed snow and removed snow, filled pot holes with cold patch, cleaned up behind the Borough Hall, replaced parking bumpers, cleaned up the exterior of the Senior Center,

checked all park benches for loose slates and fixed resident's yards that were hit by the snow plow in the Grove Avenue area.

- Manager Fred Hess reported the Sewer Department is the same as usual with testing, clean-up, etc.

WATER:

- Water Authority Superintendent, Cindy Bachman mentioned water bills will be mailed in envelopes this month due to having the Water Quality Report included.
- Cindy Bachman also noted on May 8th the Water Authority will be flushing the hydrants.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:

- Zoning Officer, James Haney reported the zoning office investigated (15) issues, wrote (6) letters, issued (4) door hangers, (2) verbal warnings, issued (3) permits, cited (1) person and spent (1) day in court.

POLICE:

- Police Chief, Joshua Laidacker reported that during the month of March 2017 the department responded to (222) calls for service, as reported by the Columbia County Communications Center.
- Chief Laidacker noted the SUV was taken to Metzger Ford for repairs of the fuel sensor on the dash as well as an electrical issue with the headlights.
- Chief Laidacker also mentioned there will be a drug take back program to be held on April 15th from 10:00 AM until 2:00 PM.
- Chief Laidacker stated on March 9th a CPR/First Aid class was held for all officers who needed it. On March 29th – 31st Officer Gallie attended the annual PNOA Conference and on April 6th Officer Gallie attended mandatory JNET training.
- Chief Laidacker is seeking approval for the Chief (himself) to attend the Chief's Conference in July, 2017.
- Chief Laidacker reported Officer Hagemeyer remains off the schedule due to medical.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

- Nothing to report

UTILITIES:

- Councilwoman Linda Kashner noted all the open accounts past due from January and February totaled \$785.00. She is extremely pleased that we are collecting the past due monies.
- Councilman Doug Krum suggested that we should put something in the "Southside Beat" regarding the late fee being 15% on the past due electric bills.
- Councilwoman Linda Kashner mentioned that a teller at First Columbia Bank took a utility payment and only took the face amount, not the amount that included the late charges. She stated we need to look at our records to see if this happened in the past.

PARKS & RECREATION:

- Committee Chairperson, Linda Kashner said she would like to thank our crew for the snow removal they did.

- Linda Kashner mentioned Mr. Brassard opened a new barber business on Main Street, Catawissa.
- Dumpster day is April 29th. Those attending must provide proof of residency in the Borough or Catawissa Township.
- Linda Kashner mentioned the Committee would like ideas for Kid's Day. The Concert Series is set but there is nothing for July 4th.
- Planning for Senior Day will be done after Kid's Day.

PROPERTY & BUILDING MAINTENANCE:

- Council President, Gary Steinruck reported the windows are installed at the Senior Center except for one.
- Gary Steinruck noted we will advertise to have the main part of the upper floor painted.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION:

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

UNION:

- Gary Steinruck, Council President stated the Union Negotiations are to be discussed later in the agenda.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

- Nothing to report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Discussion and a motion to draw up specifications and advertise for bids for the steps replacement and the Meeting House repair at Quaker Grove. Motion made by Barbara Reese, 2nd by Linda Kashner. All Aye.
- A motion to approve a lease agreement with the Catawissa Little League for the piece of ground next to the Little League Field. The yearly lease amount is to be \$1.00. Motion made by Doug Krum, 2nd by Jay Roberts. All Aye.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A motion was made to approve a solicitation permit for a boot drive fund raiser for the Catawissa Hose Co. No. 1 during the dates of May 13th and October 7th, 2017. Motion made by Jay Roberts, 2nd by Linda Neyer. All Aye.
- A motion was made to adopt Resolution #2017-06 for the Catawissa Borough to approve the Catawissa Police PSAB Master Retirement Trust. Motion made by Linda Kashner, 2nd by Joe Benware. All Aye.
- A motion was made by Linda Kashner to adopt an agreement between Allegheny Electric Cooperative, Inc. and Catawissa Borough. The Motion was 2nd by Joe Benware. All Aye.
- A motion for discussion regarding the Borough owned Teener and Softball fields was made by Doug Krum, 2nd by Joe Benware. The discussion included mentioning Joe Rose and others cleaned the field. Dirt for the pitcher's mound and a home plate is needed.
- Motion was made to purchase (15) tons of dirt for the Teener field and the needed fence repairs. Motion by Doug Krum, 2nd by Joe Benware. Jay Roberts voted Nay. All other Council members voted Aye.

- A motion was made by Joe Benware to accept a (3) year contract between the Catawissa Borough Employee's AFSCME Local 208 and Catawissa Borough. Motion 2nd by Linda Neyer. Council President, Gary Steinruck noted a few changes of the contract, such as a change in employee Health Insurance Plan and the employee contribution rate which will be 8% currently, 9% in 2018 and 10% in 2019. The employees will receive an additional \$1.60 per hour effective upon ratification of the new contract, with no further increases for the remainder of the contract. January 1st, 2017 Crystal Stoker received \$17.00 per hour. When she completes her probationary period, she will receive an additional \$1.60 per hour. Employee Chase Petty as of January 1st, 2017 will receive \$17.50 per hour. After completion of his probationary period he will receive an increase of \$1.60 per hour. New hires will start at \$16.00 per hour, after their probationary period they will receive \$17.00 per hour. After ratification, part-time employees shall receive \$13.00 per hour. Linda Kashner made the motion to accept the contract, 2nd by Joe Benware. Jay Roberts voted Nay. All other Council members voted Aye.
- Motion made by Doug Krum, 2nd by Linda Kashner to discuss a donation to the Catawissa Little League. It was decided to donate \$50.00. All Aye.
- A motion was made to hire Connie Cole as a new employee for the position of Borough Secretary, pending bonding. Connie Cole's hourly wage will start at \$15.00 per hour. After her probationary period, she will receive \$16.00 per hour. Motion made by Joe Benware, 2nd by Linda Neyer. All Aye.
- A motion was made to adopt the Resolution in Defense of Borough Operated Municipal Electric Systems in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Motion made by Barbara Reese, 2nd by Linda Neyer. All Aye.
- A motion was made to approve Chief Laidacker's attendance to the Chief's Conference in Camp Hill, PA July 23rd through July 26th, 2017 at a cost of \$451.26. Motion made by Barbara Reese, 2nd by Joe Benware. All Aye.

FINANCE PAYMENT OF BILLS:

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

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Linda Kashner read a letter from the state of Pennsylvania Department of Transportation regarding the "Welcome to Catawissa" signs.
- Attorney Anthony McDonald stated Senator John Gordner called and informed him he was angered when he read the story published in the Press Enterprise concerning the removal of the Welcome to Catawissa signs. Mr. Gordner had his aide contact District 30 Engineer Department of Penndot for more information, and the aide may have found an exception concerning entryway and exits to existing Boroughs, etc. Senator Gordner told Attorney McDonald that Catawissa Borough should not take down the "Welcome to Catawissa" signs until Attorney McDonald hears back from him.
- A discussion about the crosswalk sign by the Dollar General Store was held. Currently, there is not a pedestrian crosswalk by the Dollar General Store. Council members questioned where the crosswalk sign came from. Penndot was to do a study in order to decide if a crosswalk is needed there. Council President Gary Steinruck stated he would contact Senator Gordner concerning the need for a crosswalk. He also stated it might be helpful to start a petition and collect

signatures. Chief Joshua Laidacker reminded everyone the law states traffic must stop when a pedestrian is “in” the crosswalk, not standing by it.

ADJORNMENT:

- Motion made by Jay Roberts, 2nd by Linda Kashner. All Aye.

MEETING ADJORNED.

Submitted by:
Nancy M Yost
Treasurer