

CATAWISSA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 11, 2016 – 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: Joe Benware, Gary Steinruck, Jay Roberts, Linda Kashner, Barb Reese, Borough Manager Roger Nuss, Mayor Frank “Jeff” Achy, Attorney Anthony McDonald.
- Doug Krum was absent.

READING OF MINUTES:

- **Joe Benware made the motion** seconded by Jay Roberts to dispense with the reading of and approve the minutes of the previous monthly meeting. All aye.

COUNCIL VACANCY:

- **Linda Kashner made the motion** seconded by Jay Roberts to nominate Linda Neyer to the vacant council position. Nominations are closed. All aye. Linda Neyer joined council at this time and was sworn in by Mayor Achy.

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Borough resident, Roger Roeder asked if something could be done at the street of N. Second and Walnut. When his son drives up the street his car rubs the street on the underside passenger side. Council asked Roger to look into this issue.

MAYOR:

- Mayor Achy received a request for a handicap parking spot to be placed at 246 South Street. After his review and the Chief of Police review Mayor Achy recommends issuing the parking spot.
- **Linda Kashner made the motion** seconded by Joe Benware to allow a handicap parking spot at 246 South Street. All aye.
- **Jay Roberts made the motion** seconded by Linda Neyer to remove the handicap parking at 153 North Second Street. The resident no longer requires the spot. All aye.

MANAGER’S REPORT:

- Roger reported the activities for the employees for the month.
- Roger reported that the shelves for the upstairs storage have been installed and old records are being purged.
- Two juveniles are conducting community service. Linda Kashner would like to see them clean up the Quaker Meetinghouse property.
- DMS will be sending an acceptable list for “Dumpster Day”

WATER:

- Water Authority Superintendent, Cindy Bachman reported that April 23, 2016 the Borough will host another “Drug Take Back” program.
- May 9, 2016 the authority will be flushing hydrants.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:

- Code Enforcement Officer, James Haney reported the office dealt with 22 (twenty-two) issues during the month. They did not issue any citations or spend any time in court due to the lack of a Appeals Board. Now that one is in place the office will begin the citation process.

POLICE:

- Police Chief, Joshua Laidacker reported that during the month of March 2016 the department responded to 192 calls for service, as reported by the Columbia County Communications Center.
- The pavilion at the range has been completed thanks to the District Attorney's Office. The DA's Office also donated 2 shooting benches in the coming months.
- The VFW donated \$1,000 to the department.
- The department is attempting to rebuild the Neighborhood Watch program.
- A "Drug Take Back" box is now available 24/7 in the lobby of the station.
- Barb Reese had questions regarding the purchase of computers. Chief Laidacker explained the purchase of computers and surveillance cameras.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

- Joe Benware stated that the department did not receive any applications for part time officers.

UTILITIES:

- Committee Chairperson, Joe Benware reported 2 meters were pulled today and put back on.
- Barb Reese compiled a list of accounts that are old and should be taken off the books. However the names should be recorded in case they move back into the Borough the money will be collected. One of the properties to be written off was a tax sale and no more money will be able to be collected.
- **Linda Kashner made the motion** seconded by Joe Benware to write off \$4,580.59 in bills that are more than 3 years old. Gary commended the utilities committee for their work on collecting delinquent bills. All aye.
- The committee is becoming more proactive regarding land lords paying past tenant bills and other issues. Jim Haney reminded council that his office has submitted an ordinance for landlord's registration and inspection.

PARKS & RECREATION:

- Committee Chairperson, Linda Kashner announced "Dumpster Day" will be held on Saturday, April 30, 2016 from 8-12.
- "Kids' Day" will be held on June 18, 2016 from 11-1
- Harold Kitchen suggested having police on Fourth Street to monitor traffic. After a discussion the decision was made to bring traffic in on Creek Rd. and up onto South Fourth Street.
- The concert series will begin on June 30, 2016 with the military band beginning at 7:00 p.m. After a brief discussion the concerts will be held at the Park by the creek. July 7, 2016 will be Avenue E a 70s and 80s band. The committee will be meeting to finalize the remaining concerts.
- Non-Profits will be invited to sell refreshments at the concerts.
- Senior Day will be held August 20, 2016 from 11-1 at the pavilion by the children play area.
- The Borough will not have a Santa Day this year.
- Chad Sokol spoke about the need for clearances.

PROPERTY & BUILDING MAINTENANCE:

- Barb Reese asked about a list of borough vehicles and equipment maintenance records.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION:

- Committee Chairperson, Linda Kashner reported that as of March 31, 2016 the General Fund had a balance of -\$6879.00 she believes that part of that negative balance is due to the payment of demolition for flood properties. The Electric Fund balance is \$45,000 in the plus. The sales tax account will be in the red due to not being paid since November. The Sewer Fund balance is \$15,890.00. A lien will be placed on the Maitlin-Harris property since the Borough has not been able to transfer the deed.
- Gary Steinruck made the announcement that Brian Rhone has accepted a position in another Municipality. Mr. Rhone will not be able to work Tuesdays. Mr. Steinruck asked Mr. Haney to work something out with Brian regarding Code Enforcement hours.

UNION:

- Committee Chairperson, Gary Steinruck stated that union negotiations have stalled for the time being.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

- Committee Chairperson, Barb Reese announced that the committee will be meeting soon.
- Linda Kashner asked James Haney if Chris Rarig is putting office space in the building on Main St. Mr. Haney stated that Mr. Rarig is planning for office space. There are other things going on in the Borough. If you have questions please contact Mr. Haney. The condos on South Third Street should be starting within 60 days.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Linda Kashner made the motion seconded by Barb Reese to consider the purchasing of decaling for identifying borough trucks. Linda Kashner received a quote from Gillespie signs for \$45 per truck both sides. They will make the signs and the Borough workers will put them on. Joe Benware suggested numbering the trucks also. Linda amended her motion to add the numbers for each truck. All aye.
- Linda Kashner made the motion seconded by Joe Benware to advertise for part time police officers in the other newspapers such as the Daily Item and the Shamokin paper. Linda Neyer asked where the nearest police academy is. Chief has already tried that avenue. All aye.
- Linda Neyer made the motion seconded by Linda Kashner to move the web site to "WordPress" at a cost of approximately \$99.00 per year. All aye. Linda Kashner introduced new Treasurer, Nancy Yost.
- Linda Kashner suggested the Borough build a Facebook page. Tony McDonald informed council to look at the Salem Township Facebook page.
- Linda Kashner thinks that the baseball committee get together with Harry Young and discuss what the needs are for the electric at the baseball field.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Joe Benware made the motion seconded by Barb Reese to purchase t-shirts and vests for the non-uniform outdoor municipal workers with "Catawissa Borough" on the back of those items.

Not to exceed \$650. ID's should be worn by all non-uniform outside employees. Harold Kitchen suggested Academic in Mount Carmel. Vote 5-1. Jay Roberts opposed.

- Linda Kashner made the motion seconded by Joe Benware to discuss the allocation of PEMA/FEMA funds when they are distributed. The choices are: The sewer plant mitigation, the loan that was taken for the project and the repayment of the CD to the electric fund.
- Linda Kashner spoke regarding to fee being charged by the web payment process. Roger explained that this is a fee called PCI. It is a fee to protect from credit card fraud. Linda suggests contacting the people using the web payment to see if they would like to sign up for ACH.
- Gary Steinruck announce the installation of the Emergency Outage phone line. The line is now up and running with the phone number on the back of the electric bill.
- **Linda Kashner made the motion** seconded by Barb Reese to determine that meter refunds \$2 or under will not be refunded. All aye.
- **Linda Neyer made the motion** seconded by Barb Reese to purchase a printer for the treasurers' office at a cost not to exceed \$600. All aye. Linda will continue to search for a toner cartridge for the old printer before purchasing a new printer.
- **Linda Kashner made the motion** seconded by Barb Reese to return matching funds money for Christopher Moonis to the Borough if Mr. Moonis does not provide account information on or before April 30, 2016. All aye. The checks for Mr. Moonis when he was employed with the Borough were never cashed and he would like reimbursement.

FINANCE:

- Joe Benware made the motion seconded by Jay Roberts to accept the payment of bills as written. All aye.

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Gail Hummer stated that there is a hole in the street by the storm drain on the corner of Railroad and Main Streets.
- Harold Kitchen spoke about the tractor trailers that are trying to drive down South Fourth Street. Chief Laidacker is aware of the situation and is working on a resolution.
- Pat Hess has heard rumors that the borough non uniform employees are clocking out early.
- Pat also feels that the previous council should pay the bill for the CPA due to an employee mistakes.
- Chad Sokol spoke regarding the attorney recommending the wall at the police station that council is not heeding. Tony McDonald reminded council that Mr. Brown would have had reasons for the recommendation. Someone will speak to Attorney Brown.

ADJOURNMENT:

- Jay Roberts made the motion seconded by Joe Benware to adjourn. All aye.

MEETING ADJOURNED:

Submitted by:

Kimberly Rhoades

Secretary