

CATAWISSA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, MAY 9, 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: Doug Krum, Gary Steinruck, Jay Roberts, Linda Kashner, Barb Reese, Linda Neyer, Borough Manager Roger Nuss, Mayor Frank “Jeff” Achy, Attorney Anthony McDonald.
- Joe Benware was absent.

READING OF MINUTES:

- Barb Reese made the motion seconded by Linda Kashner to dispense with the reading of and approve the minutes of the previous monthly meeting. After grammatical changes all Aye.

Council President, Gary Steinruck read the resignation letter from Borough Manager, Roger Nuss.

- Linda Kashner made the motion seconded by Doug Krum to accept the resignation of Borough Manager, Roger Nuss effective May 27, 2016. All aye.
- Gary Steinruck thanked Roger for his service. Roger stated it was a privilege to serve the residents of the community.

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- No guests spoke at this time.

MAYOR:

- The Mayor will be officiating a wedding in May.
- There have been complaints regarding the shrub at the Verizon building. The shrub is impeding visibility. Mr. Haney stated that he would contact Verizon.

MANAGER’S REPORT:

- Borough Manager, Roger Nuss read the employee summary activities report.
- Construction has begun at the sewer plant.
- The school taxes will be voted on tonight. This would save the Borough almost \$6,000.00.
- Received over \$13,000 from PEMA/FEMA
- Barb Reese asked about the lettering for the trucks. Roger answered that the trucks have been lettered and numbered.
- Is the vehicle log being updated? Roger is checking.
- Jim Haney asked for clarification regarding the school taxes. Linda Kashner and Roger Nuss explained.

WATER:

- Water Authority Superintendent, Cindy Bachman suggested council appoint someone to oversee the Columbia County Waste Water/Storm Water MS4 committee.
- Jay Roberts made the motion seconded by Linda Neyer to appoint Cindy Bachman as temporary liaison for the MS4 representative.

CODE ENFORCEMENT:

- Code Enforcement Officer, James Haney reported the office investigated 24 issues, 2 were in conjunction with the police department. 10 doorhangers, letters, etc. were issued. The office issued 7 permits.

POLICE:

- Chief Laidacker reported that during the month of April the department responded to 196 calls for service, as reported by the Columbia county Communications Center. The Neighborhood Watch informational meeting went well.
- The Drug Take Back took in 3 large garbage bags.
- The department would like to have a softball game to benefit the fire department.
- Officers attended training during the month.
- No applications were received for the part time police officer position.
- A full time officer will be out for medical for a possible 4-6 months.
- There is an issue with the console of the SUV. Chief would like to get an estimate for fixing the issue.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

- There was no report at this time.

UTILITIES:

- Barb Reese reported that the committee has been working hard and have liened 5 more properties. At this time electric accounts past due are \$54,105.00 and sewer accounts past due are at \$7,446.00.
- Barb and Linda are going to travel to Watsonstown and Mifflinburg to see how they handle delinquent accounts.
- The write-off that is on the agenda is on hold until notification of Judicial Sale finalization.

PARKS & RECREATION:

- Linda Kashner stated the bands for the Summer Breeze Concerts have been booked at a cost of \$2,600.
- June 30, will be the Military Band, July 7th is Avenue E, July 14th is Memory Lane, July 24th is Grand Junction, and July 28 is the Uptown Music Collective. The Fire Company and Lions Club will be selling concessions.
- Kid's Day will be held June 18th. The Catawissa Christian Church will be providing games and the Borough will provide the prizes. There will be someone with a pony and other organizations participating.
- Senior Day has not been discussed yet.

- There were 7 dumpsters filled during Dumpster Day 145 loads from Borough residents and 35 loads from Catawissa Township. Linda Kashner thanked everyone for their assistance during dumpster day. There are some tweaks to be made but the event went smoothly. Gary Steinruck suggested taking the bicycles that were being thrown away and have them fixed for needy children.

PROPERTY/BUILDING MAINTENANCE:

- Gary Steinruck announced the beginning of construction at the sewer plant.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION:

- Linda Kashner stated that the General Fund is \$45,000 to the good, the sewer fund is \$12,000 to the good and the electric fund is \$50,000 in the black. Linda stated that Nancy Yost is doing a great job as Treasurer.
- Linda Kashner made the motion seconded by Barb Reese to name Nancy Yost as Treasurer/Assistant Secretary and remove the title of Treasurer from Roger Nuss. All aye. Tony McDonald gave kudos to Linda and Barb for the turn around of the borough accounts.

UNION NEGOTIATION:

- Gary Steinruck stated that at this time no developments have been made. There is a negotiating session on Monday.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

- Barb Reese stated that a meeting is scheduled for Thursday evening.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Barb Reese made the motion seconded by Doug Krum to discuss and consider a course of action in re-advertising for part-time police officers. After a discussion the Borough will advertise in social media and on line and will accept applications until the position(s) are filled. All aye.
- Linda Kashner made the motion seconded by Linda Neyer to terminate the credit card online utility bill paying service at the end of the month due to limited payments received and the \$19.95 PCI (Payment Card Industry) compliance monthly fee from Diversified. All aye. The committee will also look into Pay Pal for payments.
- Gary opened the discussion regarding the wall at the Police station. He stated that at this time the budget will not allow the expense of a wall but may in the future.
- Linda Kashner made the motion seconded by Doug Krum to inform the people that took down the fence at the softball field to re-install the fence. All aye.
- Linda Kashner made the motion seconded by Barb Reese to void the checks to Christopher Moonis. All aye.
- Linda Kashner announced that she was able to purchase a printer cartridge for the Treasurers printer so a new printer was not purchased.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Linda Kashner made the motion seconded by Barb Reese to adopt Resolution 2016-02 appointing Borough Treasurer/Assistant Secretary, and Borough Manager as the liaisons

between Catawissa Borough and Berkheimer Associates for confidential tax information. All aye.

- Barb Reese made the motion seconded by Linda Neyer to add signs on Main Street prohibiting tractor trailers (outside of local deliveries) entering South Fourth Street at the red light. All aye.
- Doug Krum made the motion seconded by Linda Kashner to leave Walnut Street as a two way street. All aye.
- Linda Kashner made the motion seconded by Barb Reese to hire Kathy Wetzel to come in and help set up General Fund chart of accounts at a cost of \$65 per hour not to exceed 10 hours in a more user friendly format. All aye.
- Barb Reese made the motion seconded by Jay Roberts to approve the 2016 Non-Emergency Activities list for the Catawissa Hose Company #1. All aye.
- Jay Roberts made the motion seconded by Doug Krum to table the purchasing and placement of signs for the “Neighborhood Crime Watch” that recently started. All aye.
- Gary Steinruck thanked Linda Neyer for the work she has done on setting up the Borough web site. Linda Neyer spoke regarding the site. Linda asked for some clarification of some job descriptions. Nancy Yost has set up a Facebook page to link with the web site.
- Barb Reese made the motion seconded by Doug Krum to require the Emergency Management Coordinator to hand in his lap top and phone to the Borough. These items should only be used for an emergency and would be available to him at those times. All aye. Cindy Bachman expressed her concern about him not having a phone at the ready. The equipment is to be handed in by the end of the week.

FINANCE:

- Barb Reese made the motion seconded by Linda Kashner to accept the payment of the bills as written. All aye.

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Doug Krum suggested an executive session of council after the meeting.
- Cindy Bachman asked about the FEMA/PEMA agent status of Roger. Roger explained that he is only the agent for the sewer plant project. Jim Haney is the agent for the rest. A resolution will be presented next meeting to appoint an agent for the sewer project.

ADJOURNMENT:

- Barb Reese made the motion seconded by Linda Neyer to adjourn. All aye.

MEETING ADJOURNED:

Submitted by:
Kimberly Rhoades
Secretary