

CATAWISSA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING  
MONDAY, MAY 6, 2013 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, Barb Reese, Gary Steinruck, Joe Benware, Tim Benner, Borough Manager Chris Moonis, Mayor Achy and Attorney McDonald.
- Linda Kashner and Forest McClintock were absent.

READING OF MINUTES:

- Joe Benware made the motion to dispense with the reading of and approve the minutes of the previous month's meeting. Tim Benner seconded the motion. All aye.

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Barry Krum complained that the "Right Wheel to Curb" Ordinance is not being enforced.
- Police Chief Anthony Kopitsky stated that the ordinance is enforced.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:

- Code Enforcement Officer James Haney had nothing to report.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- A Heroes Breakfast hosted by the Red Cross will be held June 14, 2013 at 8:00 a.m. at Monty's at the Bloomsburg University Upper Campus. Catawissa Borough Officer Jason Hayes is among the honorees.

WATER:

- Catawissa Water Authority Superintendent Cindy Bachman had nothing to report.

BOROUGH MANAGER REPORT:

- Manager Chris Moonis gave a summary report of the employee duties during the month of April.
- Chris updated everyone on the progress of the FEMA/PEMA property buy out for the 15 properties involved in the 2011 Tropical Storm Lee flooding.
- PEMA is continuing to accept applications due to the release of funds. The borough will be submitting an additional two (2) homes for the process.

FINANCE & UTILITIES:

- Barb Reese reported in the absence of Committee Chairperson Linda Kashner. Barb reported that 128 electric late notices and 59 sewer late notices were sent this month to residents that

have not paid their bill. Last month five (5) meters were pulled for non-payment and two (2) were reinstalled after payment was received.

**POLICE:**

- Police Chief Anthony Kopitsky reported that during the month of April the officers responded to 166 incidents as recorded by Columbia County Communications.
- The vehicles are running well.
- All the officers have completed their required training updates.
- On Wednesday, May 15, 2013 the Chief will participate in a training exercise for fire arms and police tactics with other departments.
- The National Drug Take Back Day was held on April 27, 2013, and approximately eighty-five (85) pounds of drugs were received.
- The handicap parking space Gail Hummer had requested to be removed has been placed on hold due to the neighbors' interest. The police and mayor are waiting for the application before a recommendation to council.
- Chief Kopitsky named Officer Jason Hayes as the officer being honored at the Hero's breakfast for saving the lives of the Lewis family during a fire in July.
- Chief would like council to set a date for a ceremony to award other officers that have performed heroic acts.
- He is also looking for grants for computers and other needed items.

**PUBLIC SAFETY:**

- Acting Chairperson Scott Keefer had nothing to report.

**MAYOR:**

- Mayor Achy reported that the street department installed signs at the cross walks to help slow and stop traffic when pedestrians are crossing.

**PARKS & RECREATION:**

- Committee Co-Chairperson Barb Reese listed the summer events scheduled for the borough;
  1. May 25, 2013- Community Wide Yard Sale
  2. June 7, 2013- Battle of the Bands beginning at 6:30 p.m. at CARA Park.
  3. June 15, 2013-Kid's Day at the Park from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Entertainment for this will include: Petting Zoo, Laney the Balloon Man and possibly Lulu the Clown.

**ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:**

- Committee Chairperson Barb Reese had nothing to report at this time except that dumpster day was a success with seventy-nine (79) borough residents and thirty (30) Catawissa Township residents participating.

**PROPERTY/BUILDING MAINTENANCE CHAIRMAN:**

- Committee Chairperson Gary Steinruck had nothing to report.

**PERSONNEL/ADMINISTRATION CHAIRMAN:**

- Committee Chairperson Scott Keefer announced that after the public meeting the personnel committee will meet briefly.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Tim Benner asked for a report regarding the clean-up of the South Third Street factory. Code Officer Jim Haney explained that the contractor was fined on the 8<sup>th</sup> of April with a violation. The next day a crew was at the scene for clean-up. Mr. Haney will drop the charges to the construction company.
- Harold Kitchen asked if the hazardous material smell coming from the site has been investigated. Chris explained that DEP was at the site on two (2) separate occasions and did not detect a hazardous material smell.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

- Barb Reese made the motion to award the 2013 Street Resurfacing Project to the lowest responsible bidder, Robert C. Young, Inc. (Mifflinville, PA) in the amount of \$65,093.10 (the entire bid project less the bid work for North Third Street from Pine Street to Quinn Street) Gary Steinruck seconded the motion. All aye.
- Barb Reese made the motion to direct the Borough Solicitor and staff to take all measures necessary to demolish the property at 224 Walnut Street, owned by John P. Maittlen-Harris and co-owned by Alexandra Dickens and if necessary, record a lien against the property in the entire amount of demolition costs of the structure(s), restoration costs of the land and any administrative and legal costs associated with this directive allowable under the law. Gary Steinruck seconded the motion. Attorney McDonald will consult with James Haney to review the condemnation records then report to Chris Moonis. Gary Steinruck seconded the motion. All aye.
- Tim Benner made the motion to adopt a Resolution banning smoking and setting fines and implementing the relevant disciplinary process for the violation of the smoking ban policy for borough-owned facilities and borough-owned equipment. Barb Reese seconded the motion. Attorney McDonald explained that if fines were involved this must be an ordinance not a resolution.
- Tim Benner made the motion to authorize Attorney McDonald to draft and advertise a smoking ban ordinance to be voted on at the June 10, 2013 council meeting. Barb Reese seconded the motion. Gary Steinruck opposed, the remaining council members voted aye.
- Barb Reese made the motion to purchase from Sewer Funds a RACO Model Number 101CV-8 Chatterbox CV-8 Autodialer in the amount of \$1,845 plus shipping. Council may further authorize ICEA Solutions to install the unit at the Borough's agreed-to hourly rate with ICEA. The Autodialer will be located at the Wastewater Treatment Plant, plugged into a telephone jack, and will continuously monitor various inputs/alarms connected at the Plant. If and when an alarm condition occurs, the Autodialer dials up to eight (8) programmable phone numbers and identifies the specific problem in plain English. Scott Keefer seconded the motion. All aye.
- Attorney McDonald instructed council that the fine for smoking should be \$0-\$300 for summary offences.
- Joe Benware made the motion to purchase from Eyer Funds an Illuminated Flashing Arrow Portable Sign in the amount of \$498.00 plus \$168.58 shipping and delivery in the total amount of \$666.58. (This double-sided flashing arrow sign has a 40" X 96" cabinet containing 5 lines of 8" changeable text. A set of 300 flexible letters are included. The portable sign can be used for all Borough-sponsored events as well as other community-acceptable events (e.g. Catawissa Hose Company Carnival) as approved in advance by the Borough Manager. Barb Reese seconded the motion. All aye.

FINANCE:

- Tim Benner made the motion to accept the payment of bills as written. Gary Steinruck seconded the motion. All aye.

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Pat Hess, on behalf of Alice Dawn Linn, asked council what the progress is on the repair of the culvert under Ms. Linn's property. Chris Moonis explained that the engineers were first waiting for the weather to break before running a camera through the culvert. The problem is not only at the area of Ms. Linn's property, but there are more areas to investigate. The problem will be diagnosed and repaired as soon as possible.
- Doug Krum asked about the progress of non-uniform negotiations. Council explained that they are ongoing.
- Pat Hess asked when the borough was going to seal cracks in the streets. She stated there are some streets that have grass growing in the cracks. Sharon Krum reported that the curb at her home is deteriorating and needs repaired as soon as possible.
- Pat Hess questioned the absences of a council member for more than 2 or 3 meetings. Chris explained that section was repealed.
- Questions were asked about the yard sale. Laura asked if the Opera House first floor could be open during the yard sale. James Haney explained that the Opera House could only be open if an Occupancy Permit has been issue by Peters' Consultants.

ADJOURNMENT:

- Joe Benware made the motion to adjourn. Tim Benner seconded the motion. All aye.

MEETING ADJOURNED.

Submitted by:

Kimberly Rhoades

Secretary