

CATWISSA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, JUNE 11, 2012 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, Tim Benner, Gary Steinruck, Forest McClintock, Linda Kashner, Borough Manager Chris Moonis, Mayor Achy, Attorney McDonald.
- Joe Benware was absent.

READING OF THE MINUTES:

- Barb Reese made the motion to dispense with the reading of and approve minutes of the previous months meeting. Forest McClintock seconded the motion. All aye.

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Barry Krum complained that the Borough is enforcing the right wheel to curb law.
- Sharon Halady reported about high grass on properties around hers and causing snakes and rodents. Between 2 ½ and Second St. Jim Haney spoke to the property owner and was assured that it would be cleaned up as soon as possible.
- Diane Rhodes of 709 Mill St. Ms. Rhodes would like council not to vacate the alley behind her residence. Chris explained that this decision would not be made this evening.
- Fred Gaffney of the Columbia County Chamber of Commerce welcomed Catawissa as a member of the Chamber.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:

- Mr. Haney reported that he spent a few days in court this month and issued some permits. No new developments at this time.
- Linda Kashner asked Jim about properties that have been foreclosed; these properties need maintenance. Mr. Haney is in contact with the banks but this takes time because of trying to find the correct person to speak to. If the Borough needs to take care of the situation, a lien would be placed on the property for costs.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- The quarterly Fire Company report is on file for review.

WATER:

- Water Authority Superintendent Cindy Bachman had nothing to report at meeting time.

BOROUGH MANAGERS REPORT:

- Manager Chris Moonis reported about the employees work during the month of May. The work done on the roofs at the borough hall has appeared to fix the leaks.
- Chris is in contact with the Department of the Interior regarding the Quaker Meeting House. Barb stated that she received an email regarding this and was informed that the borough must contact The Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Society. Barb will forward the contact information.
- Chris thanked Mr. Ed Broadfield for his help with the restoration of the Union Cemetery curb. Mr. Broadfield donated not only some paint and materials, but also his time.

FINANCE & UTILITIES:

- Committee Chairperson Linda Kashner reported that 113 electric late notices and 49 sewer late notices were sent this month for non payment of bills. The dead line date is the 15th of June. Meters will be pulled on the 18th if payment is not received.

POLICE:

- Chief Anthony Kopitsky stated that during the month of May the police responded to 188 incidents as reported by county communications.
- Kids Day went well. The police are out of fingerprint paper. Chief will be ordering that soon.
- DEP has announced another Drug Take Back date of September 29th 10-2

PUBLIC SAFETY:

- Committee Chairman Forest McClintock had nothing to add to the Chief's report.

MAYOR:

- Mayor Achy has been in touch with Chris regarding crosswalks on Main and Third Sts. And Main and Second Sts. Chris reported that the crew will be painting the crosswalks this week. Clair will be ordering the crosswalk signs.

PARKS & RECREATION:

- Co-Chairperson Barb Reese reported that Kids' Day was a success and thanked Linda, Woody, Scott and Joe for their help on Kids Day.
- Friday, June 8th was Battle of the Bands. During the night there were about 200 attendees for the event. Barb thanked D.A. Tom Leipold and the Columbia County Task Force. With the money they provided, t-shirts were purchased for drug and alcohol awareness. Teenagers had to sign a paper promising to refrain from drug and alcohol abuse to receive a t-shirt. Also, thanks to Joe Gaughan, Charlie Mausteller, Roger Steffan, and the Lions Club. Without their help this would not have been feasible.
- The Summer Breeze Series will begin on Tuesday, June 26th with the Catawissa Military Band. The schedule is available with flyers at the Borough Hall.

ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

- Committee Chairperson Barb Reese reported that the committee met with Miller's Construction (the firm that purchased Catawissa Lumber). There is a definite commitment for a Dollar General Store.
- The Main St. Task Force will meet Tuesday, June 19th

PROPERTY/BUILDING MAINTENANCE CHAIRMAN:

- Committee Chairman Gary Steinruck reported that the Quaker Meeting House roof is almost complete.
- Gary put together a game plan for repairs at the Sr. Center upstairs project. The roof needs repairs. Other projects will be done as needed until the money runs out. Peter's Consulting will provide an occupancy report for the borough.

PERSONNEL/ADMINISTRATION CHAIRMAN:

- Committee Chairman Scott Keefer reported that the committee conducted interviews for a part-time employee and will discuss later in the meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- No unfinished business at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Forest McClintock made the motion to discuss whether council should direct the Solicitor to draft an amendment to Ordinance 2003-03 Vacating a Portion of Baker Avenue from the existing portion of 177.80 feet to include the vacation of the entire avenue from Creek Road to E. Cemetery Street. Tim Benner seconded the motion. After a discussion between Atty. McDonald, Ms. Rhodes, Council, and Chris Moonis Forest McClintock made the motion to table the vote regarding the vacating of Baker Ave. Cindy Bachman stated that there may be a storm drain in that area. Tim Benner seconded the motion to table. All aye, none opposed.

- Linda Kashner made the motion to hire part time public works employee(s). Gary Steinruck seconded the motion. The employee will follow the union contract. The vote was for Neil Clossen. All aye, none opposed.
- Gary Steinruck made the motion to set the hire rate at \$12.00 per hour. Forest seconded the motion. All aye, none opposed.
- Forest made the motion to discuss hiring a second part time employee. Gary seconded the motion. Linda Kashner would like to wait at least another month before hiring another employee to see how the finances are holding. Gary asked if the second part time employee would be a seasonal position. Scott explained that at this time it would be a year round position. Forest stated that the seconded employee was budgeted for. The employee could be laid off at any time. Roll Call vote: Tim Benner-yes, Forest McClintock-yes, Gary Steinruck-no, Linda Kashner-no, Barb Reese-no, Scott Keefer-yes, Tie Break Mayor Achy-no.
- Barb Reese made the motion to discuss directing the solicitor to draft and amend the Ordinance of Catawissa, Appendix 9, Street Opening and Vacation to amend Ordinance 192 (March 12, 2970) to Open and accept Bank Avenue, 16' 6" wide, running from Quinn Avenue to Main Street. Gary Steinruck seconded the motion. After a lengthy discussion, Tim Benner made the motion to table until further notice by direction of Solicitor. Gary Steinruck seconded the motion. All aye, none opposed. Forest McClintock abstained.
- Gary Steinruck made the motion to purchase and install a security window system for the pay window at Borough Hall from Bloom Glass and Mirror Inc., in the amount of \$1,116.53. Linda Kashner seconded the motion. Chris Moonis offered further information. All aye, none opposed.
- Barb Reese made the motion to purchase a Northstar Trash Pump for Sewer Operations not to exceed \$1,099.00. Gary Steinruck seconded the motion. Linda Kashner asked if Chris could check for a COSTARS price. All aye, none opposed.
- Barb Reese made the motion to purchase two Northstar Semi-Trash Pumps, for Sewer Operations and to pump out Borough facilities, not to exceed \$549.00. Gary Steinruck seconded the motion. Chris will research COSTARS for a lower price. Chris explained that with the purchase of this pump, if flooding conditions occur, borough properties will be taken care of and then the pump can be utilized by the fire company to aide any borough resident with flooding issues. During the 2011 flood, pumps were needed and not available. All aye, none opposed.
- Barb Reese made the motion to consider removing a utility pole from property located at 702 Mill St. as requested by the property owners. Linda Kashner seconded the motion. Barry Krum explained his reason for asking for removal of the utility pole. Chris read the ordinance regarding "Right of Way" of placing utility poles. Atty. McDonald asked for the vote to be tabled until he could review the situation.
- Barb Reese made the motion to table the motion. Linda Kashner seconded the motion. All aye, none opposed.

FINANCE:

- Linda Kashner made the motion to accept as written the payment of the bills. Gary Steinruck seconded the motion. All aye, none opposed.

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Pat Hess asked if the Natale pool property has been addressed. Council explained that Mr. Haney is aware of the problem and will be addressing the issue. Also the issue of property maintenance for the flood properties was addressed.
- Harry Young stated that when he reads meters this month, he will be noting properties with 60 amp service and services that need repair. He recommends letters be sent to these property owners to cover the borough for liability. Meters pulled that have 60 amp services will not be reinstalled until service is updated.

ADJOURNMENT:

- Gary Steinruck made the motion to adjourn. Forest McClintock seconded the motion. All aye, none opposed.

MEETING ADJOURNED:

Submitted by;
Kimberly Rhoades
Secretary