

CATAWISSA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, JULY 8, 2013 6:30 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER:

- The meeting was called to order by Council President Scott A. Keefer.
- The pledge of allegiance was recited.

ROLL CALL:

- Present were: Scott Keefer, Barb Reese, Linda Kashner, Gary Steinruck, Joe Benware, Forest McClintock, Tim Benner Manger Chris Moonis, Attorney McDonald.
- Mayor Frank Jeff Achy was absent.

READING OF MINUTES:

- Barb Reese made the motion to dispense with the reading of and approve the minutes of the previous months meeting. Linda Kashner seconded the motion. Linda Kashner corrected the spelling of Lanny Lee in the May 2013 minutes. The motion was passed with the correction. All aye.

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Doug Krum asked how the negotiations were going with the non-uniform employees. Council President Scott Keefer explained negotiations were progressing.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:

- Code Enforcement Officer James Haney had nothing to report.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- A letter of thanks was sent with a donation for the Catawissa Park from the Ernest and Gotshall families.
- The UMC asked to close South Street from Berger Avenue to South Second Street on Saturday, September 14, 2013 from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. for the annual Block Party.
- The sixth (6th) Annual Pig Pickin' Corn Roast will be held Saturday, August 24, 2013 from 11:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. This event supports the Area Agency on Aging.
- Linda Kashner made the motion to close South Street from Berger Avenue to South Second Street on Saturday, September 14, 2013. Tim Benner seconded the motion. All aye. Barb Reese abstained.

MUNICIPAL WATER AUTHORITY:

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

BOROUGH MANAGER REPORT:

- Borough Manager Chris Moonis reported he has filed a grant with the PA Council of the Arts to support the 2014 Summer Breeze in the amount of \$2,500.00.

- Mr. Moonis gave a summary report regarding the employee activities during the month of June.
- Chris Moonis is working with Peter's Consultant to employ a firm to clean out the storm culvert near the bottling company. There is a blockage in that area that needs to be cleared before a camera can be inserted in the culvert to detect any further issues.
- The renewal for the NPDES permit is due on April 30, 2014. This permit is essential in the operations of the sewer plant.

FINANCE & UTILITIES:

- Committee Chairperson Linda Kashner stated 124 electric late notices and 59 sewer late notices were sent this month for non-payment of bills. There were twelve (12) meters pulled with only four (4) being reinstalled last month. Chris and Linda sent letters to customers that left town without paying their final bill if they still do not pay the accounts will be sent to the District Justice.
- The Borough is doing well in all the areas of finance so far this fiscal year. In the General Fund even though the income is not quite at 50% the expenses are only at 41%. The electric fund is at 52.5% income and expenses are at 53.2%. Sewer income is 50.1% and the expenses are 40.6%.
- Linda Kashner has asked Manager Chris Moonis to look into insurance rates including liability, worker's comp., and property.

POLICE:

- Police Chief Anthony Kopitsky reported that during the month of June the police officers responded to 198 (one hundred ninety-eight) activity reports as recorded by the Columbia County Communications Center.
- All three vehicles are running fairly good at this time. No major issues have been reported.
- No training was scheduled last month. Officers are being qualified with firearms as they become available.
- The ENRADD machine is doing fine. Chief Kopitsky has scheduled one officer for 4 (four) hours per week. For the month of June there have been numerous citations issued, 2 (two) DUI's and 4 (four) drug arrests off this machine.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

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

MAYOR:

- Mayor Achy was not in attendance.

PARKS & RECREATION:

- Committee Co-Chairperson Barb Reese stated that "Kid's Day" was a rousing success with over 120 (one hundred twenty) kids and parents.
- The committee took this time to thank the Catawissa Hose Company for the use of the fire hall on July 2, 2013 to host the "Summer Breeze Concert" featuring "Seasoned Sounds". The July 9th concert will feature "The Loons" classic rock, and July 16th and the July 23rd concert will feature the "Uptown Music Collective with a tribute to Pink Floyd. The final concert will be held July 30th with the BeeGeezers.

- Senior Day will be held at CARA Park on Saturday, August 17, 2013 from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. There will be free entertainment, bingo and information booths.

ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

- Committee Chairperson Barb Reese was happy to announce Dollar General is open for business. They opened for business officially on July, 3, 2013 at 8:00 a.m. The store is one of the largest in the state.

PROPERTY/BUILDING MAINTENANCE CHAIRMAN:

- Committee Chairperson Gary Steinruck reported the window project for the Senior Center has been re-established and will be advertised ASAP.

PERSONNEL/ADMINISTRATION CHAIRMAN:

- Committee Chairman Scott Keefer announced the non-uniform contract negotiations are ongoing.
- An ad was placed in the paper for part-time police officer(s).

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- There was no unfinished business at the time of the council meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Barb Reese made the motion to purchase four (4) Automated External Defibrillator's (AEDs) at a cost not to exceed \$1,825 for each from AED Superstore.com (or a similar vendor) to be located at the Borough's Senior Center, Upper Barn, Borough Hall and Wastewater Treatment Plant. Manager Chris Moonis will also consult with Dr. Dennis Sheehe for final recommendations. AMP provides training for this device and the Good Samaritan Act will cover liability. Linda Kashner seconded the motion. All aye.
- Linda Kashner made the motion to engage Northeast Tree Service, Catawissa, to remove and cleanup a potentially dangerous large maple tree located in Greenwood Cemetery at a cost of \$2,850. Gary Steinruck seconded the motion. All aye.
- Forest McClintock made the motion to donate \$1,000 to Catawissa Hose Company to defray the cost of music entertainment at the 2013 annual carnival. Scott Keefer seconded the motion. The fireworks have been cancelled, therefore, the money approved last month for them will now go to entertainment. All aye.
- Barb Reese made the motion to direct staff to submit an application certifying the number of Veterans buried in the Quaker, Greenwood and Union Cemeteries to the Columbia County Commissioners for the purposes of receiving \$3.00 per veteran per year for grave care. Gary Steinruck seconded the motion. Linda Kashner suggested the Manager to contact Paul Sevison for assistance. All aye. Cindy Bachman offered a book with information of the cemeteries.
- Forest McClintock made the motion to authorize the Borough Manager to attend the 2013 Annual PA Municipal Legal Update of the PA State Association of Boroughs, August 13-14, 2013 at the Sheraton Harrisburg/Hershey at a cost of \$250.00 and further provide hotel accommodations for one (1) night at a cost of \$121 per night plus taxes, provide reimbursement for any travel and meal expenses of the Manger. Tim Benner seconded the motion.

- Linda Kashner made the motion to direct the Manager to solicit at least three (3) price quotations from qualified contractors to replace up to nine (9) windows at the Community Center/Senior Center utilizing the Community development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. Barb Reese seconded the motion. All aye.
- Barb Reese made the motion to reaffirm or adopt a new policy for branch and tree limb pick up in the Borough. Gary Steinruck seconded the motion. All aye.
- Linda Kashner made the motion to amend and adopt a Resolution entitled "Electric Service Billing Policy" to make certain changes to landlord/tenant deposit requirements and include additional language to manage customers with medical issues. Gary Steinruck seconded the motion. After a lengthy discussion the motion was amended to state that the Borough Manager would have discretion to determine medical status. All aye.

FINANCE:

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

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Theresa Gosciminski, Linda Haines, and Paula Clark expressed great concern about a possible infestation of cockroaches in a around their homes. They presume the bugs are coming from the feed mill an investigation by borough officials has begun. Attorney McDonald will meet with Mr. Haney and Chris Moonis to review to ordinance regarding this problem.
- Harry Young asked if there is any information regarding the PMEA Conference. Chris Moonis will forward any information to Mr. Young the next business day.
- Pat Hess reported that the house on the corner of 487 and Pine Street has taken down a tree and is putting piles of brush out for the borough workers to pick up. Mr. Haney is aware of the situation.
- Harold Kitchen suggested a fence be placed around the mound of dirt at the sewer plant.
- Paula Clark asked that the Borough contact the homeowners of the properties that were flooded and are in the process of FEMA buy-out and have them mow the grass and spray for cockroaches.

ADJOURNMENT:

- Gary Steinruck made the motion to adjourn. Tim Benner seconded the motion. All aye.

MEETING ADJOURNED:

Submitted by:
Kimberly Rhoades
Secretary