

CATAWISSA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING  
MONDAY, JULY 9, 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, Linda Kashner, Gary Steinruck, Joe Benware, Forest McClintock, Tim Benner, Borough Manager Chris Moonis, Mayor Achy, Attorney Anthony McDonald.

READING OF MINUTES:

- Barb Reese noted that Roger Steffan's name was misspelled. Linda Kashner made the motion to dispense with the reading of and approve the minutes of the previous months meeting with the correction noted by Barb Reese. Gary Steinruck seconded the motion. All aye, none opposed.

ACTION ITEM:

- Linda Kashner made the motion to appoint Treasurer Rose Hagerman as an Alternate to the Columbia County Tax Collection Committee. Barb Reese seconded the motion. All aye, none opposed.

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Doug Krum asked the outcome of the Arbitration Hearing. Chris explained that the arbiter will have his decision when he decides. The Borough can not make him decide any sooner.
- Doug also asked Chief Kopitsky about the malfunction of the traffic light on the corner of Church and Mill Sts. Tony explained: the electrician has been trying to locate the problem. The light only malfunctions intermittingly and the Borough is aware of the situation.
- Harold Kitchen asked the hedge between Fourth St. and Shuman St. be trimmed and maintained.
- Barry Krum stated that a hammer is in the drain on 5<sup>th</sup> and Pine St.

CODE ENFORCEMENT:

- Code Enforcement Officer James Haney had nothing to report.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- There was no correspondence at meeting time.

WATER:

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

BOROUGH MANAGERS REPORT:

- Borough Manger Chris Moonis presented departmental work reports for the month of June.
- Chris reported there is a signed agreement between the new owners of the lumber company and Ms. Rhodes to sell her home to the company.

FINANCE & UTILITIES:

- Committee Chairperson Linda Kashner reported that 112 electric late notices, 55 sewer late notices, were sent and last month 2 electric meters were pulled.
- Chris Moonis and Linda Kashner will be meeting with 2 insurance companies to discuss possible lower rates and the finance committee will be meeting to go over the first 6 month's budget.

POLICE:

- Police Chief Anthony Kopitsky reported that the police responded to 180 incidents as reported to county communications.
- The 2003 check engine light is on and will be checked.
- There will be a joint training session on July 19. There will be practice drills etc.
- Office Scott Maskowski has resigned effective June 21, 2012.
- The department is registered for the DEA Drug Take Back Program Saturday, September 29, 2012.
- The Firemans Carnival is scheduled for August 8-11<sup>th</sup>. There will be no parade this year.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

- Committee Chairman Forest McClintock reported that interviews were conducted last week and the committee will be making a recommendation later in the meeting.

MAYOR:

- Mayor Achy had nothing to report at this time.

PARKS & RECREATION:

- Committee Co-Chairperson Barb Reese reported that there was a good turn out for the “Jeff Grey Band”. This week is the Blind Chitlin Kahunas and the 17<sup>th</sup> is Polka Night. A \$2,500 grant was received from the Degenstien Foundation.
- Barb is waiting to hear from the Commonwealth Bureau of Historic Preservation regarding the Quaker Meeting House grounds. It has to be determined if graves have been found on the property, and they are not marked, then more paperwork will be needed. The contact person is on vacation at this time. Barb will contact him when he returns.
- Barb asked council permission to apply for another grant from the Degenstien Foundation to replace the fencing at the baseball fields in the amount of \$7,785. Also Barb would like to apply for a grant from the Susquehanna Greenway to help plan a hiking and biking trail along the creek and around the Susquehanna River.
- Forest McClintock made the motion to allow Barb to apply for the \$7,785 grant from the Degenstien Foundation to replace the fence at the baseball field. Tim Benner seconded the motion. All aye.
- Forest McClintock made the motion to allow Barb to apply for the Susquehanna Greenway mini grant. Joe Benware seconded the motion. All aye.

#### ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

- Committee Chairperson Barb Reese reported the Main Street Task force has continued to meet every month. They are working on designs for the “Welcome To Catawissa” signs areas.

#### PROPERTY/BUILDING MAINTENANCE CHAIRMAN:

- Committee Chairperson Gary Steinruck reported that the committee has one estimate for the roof and fascia at the Sr. Center. This is only for repairs and not replacement. The amount is \$9,500. There are no pressing issues at this time, but the building does need work.
- Chris explained that Peter’s Consultant has been to the Center regarding designs for handicap installation of handicapped ramp and kitchen.
- Peters has also been looking at the sewer plant regarding ways to move the electrical system higher if there would ever be future flooding. The Borough crew has the knowledge to do a major amount of the work that would save the borough a significant amount of money.

#### PERSONNEL/ADMINISTRATION CHAIRMAN:

- Committee Chairperson Scott Keefer stated that Neil Clossen is working well.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Barb Reese made the motion to correct the 2012 starting wage for Neil Clossen’s part-time employment from \$12.00/hr to \$12.36/hr to be consistent with the

agreement with the collective bargaining unit. Forest McClintock seconded the motion. All aye,

#### PREVIOUSLY TABLED ITEMS:

- Barb Reese made the motion to take from the table a motion to direct the Solicitor to draft and advertise 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 Rd. to E. Cemetery St. Forest McClintock seconded the motion. Forest asked if the agreement between the contractor and Ms. Rhodes did not go through, could this be rescinded?
- Gary Steinruck made the motion to retable the issue until a later date. Forest McClintock seconded the motion.
- Barb Reese made the motion to take from the table the motion to direct the solicitor to draft and advertise an amendment Ordinance 193 (March 12, 1970), Appendix 9, Street Opening and Vacation to open and accept Bank Avenue, 16'6" wide running from Quinn Avenue to Main St. Linda Kashner seconded the motion. Attorney McDonald explained that after 30 years of Borough use this would revert back to the Borough. If the Borough used this avenue for that many years, leave it alone. Council President Scott Keefer asked Manager Moonis to please remove this issue from the agenda.
- Linda Kashner made the motion to take from the table a motion to remove the utility pole at 702 Mill St. Gary Steinruck seconded the motion. Attorney McDonald stated that he and Chris reviewed the placement of the pole and determined that the pole is providing utilities to surrounding properties. They did not determine if this is in an easement or other legal right of way.
- Forest McClintock made the motion to maintain the utility pole as is. Gary Steinruck seconded the motion. All aye.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

- Forest McClintock made the motion to consider hiring a permanent part-time employee in the public works (street) department at a starting rate of \$12.36/hour 25-32 hours per week. Joe Benware seconded the motion. After a discussion a roll call vote was called for. Roll Call: Tim Benner-yes, Forest McClintock-yes, Joe Benware-yes, Gary Steinruck-no, Linda Kashner-no, Barb Reese-no, Scott Keefer-yes. Motion passes. Chris will get in touch with the next candidate available from the previous interviews.
- Forest McClintock made the motion to consider a policy modification to change the threshold for authorized employees to purchase items without obtaining a purchase order from fifty dollars (\$50) to one hundred twenty five dollars (\$125). Tim Benner seconded the motion. Chris explained that with the rising cost of supplies this would give a little more leeway to the supervisors for purchases. All aye.
- Tim Benner made the motion to grant an easement to GC Five, LLC for Borough land in the area of the existing driveway, deemed 623.61 square feet shown on the

plan as the roadway/alleyway from South Street to the rear of 210 South Third St. Scott Keefer seconded the motion all costs will be paid for by the contractor. When the survey was conducted by the contractor for this property, 104.63 feet of this is the McGinnley property. The easement must not block the steps to the Quaker Meeting House. All aye.

- Forest McClintock made the motion to accept a proposal from T&A Earthworks Orangeville, PA, for landscape work at the entranceway to Catawissa Borough at the corner of Main St. and 1<sup>st</sup> St. in the amount of \$4,900 to be paid out of the Eyer Fund. Barb Reese seconded the motion. Gary Steinruck opposed the motion the remainder aye.
- Forest McClintock made the motion to accept a proposal from T & A Earthworks, Orangeville, PA for landscape work at the entranceway to Catawissa Borough at the corner of State Route42 and Mountain Road in the amount of \$4,900 paid out of the Eyer Fund. Gary Steinruck opposed the motion the remainder aye.
- Forest McClintock made the motion to consider amending the Permit Parking Resolution to increase the number of permit parking spaces made available in the area of South and South Third Streets from ten(10) permitted spaces to not less than fourteen (14) permitted spaces and further to increase permitted spaces to a reasonable maximum as determined by the Borough Manager under the resolution. The motion is to not exceed 14 spaces. Tim Benner seconded the motion. Gary Steinruck opposed the motion all other aye.
- Linda Kashner made the motion to purchase the property known as the Harris property at the corner to Berger Avenue and Walnut Street. Scott Keefer seconded the motion. Attorney McDonald explained that all the liens to the property have expired. The family attorney was to draw up the papers but has not done so as of yet. Attorney McDonald could do the paperwork but the borough would have to pay the cost. The family agreed to transfer the property for \$1. The building lot could be resold after the building is torn down. The cost of paperwork would be about \$900. The last demolition quote was \$7,000. All aye.
- Forest McClintock made the motion to accept Officer Scott Maskowski's resignation. Tim Benner seconded the motion. Officer Maskowski was here for more than one year, therefore, he does not need to payback the Borough for uniform expenses. All aye.
- Linda Kashner made the motion to hire a part time Police Officer at a starting rate of \$13.42/hour. Gary Steinruck seconded the motion. Interviews were held last week with the Mayor, Police Committee, and Chief. The review committee would like to recommend Stephanie Galley as part time police officer. All aye.

#### FINANCE:

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

#### GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Barry Krum asked the financial condition of the Borough.

- Barry asked if the Shirt Factory on Third St. has been condemned and when it will be torn down. Chris explained that the doors have been locked and signs posted.
- Pat Hess feels that the town should enforce the ordinances more strictly. Ms. Hess presented another list for Mr. Haney of properties that need addressed.
- Harold Kitchen asked: “Is there is a regulation as to how high a hedge can be?” Mr. Haney explained that a hedge can be as high as wanted as long as it does not impede visibility of traffic.

ADJOURNMENT:

- Joe Benware made the motion to adjourn. Forest McClintock seconded the motion. All aye.

MEETING ADJOURNED:

Submitted by:  
Kimberly Rhoades  
Secretary