

CATAWISSA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, AUGUST 8, 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: Gary Steinruck, Linda Neyer, Jay Roberts, Doug Krum, Linda Kashner, Barb Reese, Mayor Frank “Jeff” Achy, Manager Fred Hess, Attorney Anthony McDonald.
- Joe Benware was absent.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT, GARY STEINRUCK ANNOUNCED AN EXECUTIVE SESSION WAS HELD PRIOR TO THE MEETING IN ORDER TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL MATTERS.

READING OF MINUTES:

- **Jay Roberts made the motion** to dispense with the reading of and approve the previous monthly meeting. Doug Krum seconded the motion. Linda Neyer had the following corrections: Change under Mayor - Post Office to Verizon building. Page 3 under Parks & Recreation change there to their at bullet #6. Page 4 council may advertise ordinance not repass. **Jay Roberts made the motion** to accept the written minutes with the corrections. Doug Krum seconded the motion. All aye.

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Trish Corothers of Susquehanna Greenways spoke regarding “Rails to Trails” connection. The goal is to create a trail from Catawissa Boat Club to Bloomsburg. Fred Hess, Wes Fahringer, and Trish Corothers will meet to coordinate their efforts.
- Harold Kitchen asked if Catawissa can spend the grant money in Montour Township. Ms Corothers explained that as the Borough is looking at area for the trail the committee will be looking at areas outside the Borough.
- Harold Kitchen asked who would be responsible for maintaining the trail. Ms. Corothers explained that issue is under discussion. There were some suggestions regarding the trail route.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- At the last council meeting the council voted to donate to the Area Agency on Aging. In response the Agency sent the Borough 4 tickets to the chicken roast. Gary suggests sending the tickets back to the Senior Center for distribution. Barb Reese made the motion to return the tickets to the Area Agency on Aging seconded by Linda Neyer. All aye.

MAYOR:

- Mayor Achy did not have anything to report at this time.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

- Manager, Fred Hess gave a summary report of the employee activities for the last few months.
- Fred also gave a summary report regarding his activities for the month.

WATER:

- Water Authority Superintendent, Cindy Bachman was not in attendance.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:

- Code Enforcement Officer, James Haney reported the office issued 14 (fourteen) warnings, spent 1 (one) day in court, sent 13 (thirteen) letters.

POLICE:

- Chief, Joshua Laidacker reported during the month of July the department responded to 229 (two hundred twenty-nine) calls for service, as reported by the Columbia County Communications Center.
- The spotlight on the SUV is inoperative. Chief Laidacker has contacted Keystone Communications for an estimate on repair.
- July 13th was the Neighborhood watch program meeting where Frances Frailey, the Columbia County Victim Witness Coordinator was the guest speaker. The next meeting is scheduled for August 30th at 7:00 p.m. at the Senior Center.
- Trainee Craig Johnson has begun his ride along training.
- Officers Hayes and Hagemeyer remain off the schedule for medical reasons.
- Chief Laidacker recommended not continuing the employment of new hire, Jennifer Walters.
- **Jay Roberts made the motion** seconded by Doug Krum to terminate the employment of Jennifer Walters. All aye.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

- Doug Krum asked for approval to interview candidates to replace the vacant position.
- **Jay Roberts made the motion** seconded by Linda Neyer to interview for part time police officers. All aye.
- Gary Steinruck informed council that the switch at the fire hall for the street light is no longer available.

UTILITIES:

- Linda Kashner reported, 94 (ninety-four) electric late notices and 47 (forty-seven) sewer late notices were sent on August 1st. The past due is down to \$46,700. Liens have been placed on properties with one payment. Landlords are paying previous tenant bills slowly. Also if the owner does not contact the Borough regarding the past due tenant bill a lien will be placed on the property.
- Gary Steinruck commended the committee on the work they are doing.

PARKS & RECREATION:

- Linda Kashner reported the concert series is complete with good weather for all the concerts but the last one.
- Senior Day will be August 19th from 10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. with many organizations participating. A picnic lunch will be provided.
- The Quaker Meetinghouse open house was well attended.
- Jim Haney has been asked by some kids if soccer nets could be built for the park or one of the plots acquired by the flood.
- Mr. Haney would like something on the website about having people notify his office if a ladder is in a pool, it is a safety hazard. Anything over 2' requires a permit.
- Linda Kashner asked Mr. Haney if the flood property by the little league field can be leased by Little League and they would be responsible for maintaining the property.

PROPERTY/BUILDING MAINTENANCE:

- Gary Steinruck stated that the sewer plant project is approximately 50% finished. At this point progress in being made inside so you would not notice any progress outside.
- Over the weekend part of the Borough building fell out front. The manager will look into the repairs. Doug Krum asked if the insurance will cover the repairs. Fred Hess will also look into that.
- Also the steps at the Quaker Meetinghouse need attention.
- The streetlights have been replaced to LED.
- Of course someone taped a yard sale sign to the newly painted street pole.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION:

- Linda Kashner reported the electric account balance is \$26,900, the sewer account balance is -\$14,000 in the red, and the general fund is \$119,000.

UNION NEGOTIATION:

- Gary Steinruck reported that an offer has been presented to the police union. An answer is forthcoming.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

- Barb Reese reported the committee met with Rich Kisner and Josh Nespoli of the Housing Authority regarding vacant and blighted properties.
- The borough purchased 8 (eight) "No Dogs Allowed" signs for borough property.
- Barb asked the Fire Company to make announcements at the Carnival that there is "No Smoking", "No Alcohol", and "No Dogs" allowed at the park. Borough Manager, Fred Hess explained to Barb that a letter was sent to the Fire Company President and Secretary regarding this issue.
- Gary stated that the Housing Authority is active in Berwick with affordable housing.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Linda Kashner made the motion seconded by Barb Reese to discuss the fence at the softball field. Linda spoke to Mr. Dunkelberger he had no idea who took the fence down nor did he know anything about it. Gary explained that he and Wayne Kashner

has volunteered to replace the fence. There are some supplies needed and volunteers. Doug Krum stated he could help out on a Saturday.

- Linda Kashner made the motion seconded by Barb Reese to spend up to \$1,000 for supplies putting the fence up at the softball field. All aye.
- Linda Kashner suggested putting soccer nets at the softball field due to the amount of land there.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Barb Reese made the motion** seconded by Linda Kashner to “write off” an old electric account #171-08 in the amount of \$352.66. All aye.
- **Jay Roberts made the motion** seconded by Doug Krum to advertise for a full-time public works employee due to the retirement of Blair “Scott” Adams. After a discussion council decided to post the position on the web site and Indeed (job site) for 2 weeks. All aye.
- **Linda Kashner made the motion** seconded by Jay Roberts to adopt Resolution 2016-05 appointing Fred Hess as agent between Catawissa Borough and FEMA/PEMA for the waste water treatment plant flood repair grant. All aye.
- **Doug Krum made the motion** seconded by Jay Roberts to approve Borough Manager, Fred Hess as check signer for all Borough accounts and to also apply for a Borough credit card. All aye.
- **Linda Kashner made the motion** seconded by Barb Reese to accept the bid from Gray Builders in the amount of \$56,900 to be the contractor for the Catawissa Community Center project. All aye.
- **Doug Krum made the motion** seconded by Jay Roberts to accept the bid from Steve Troy for the purchase of 2 Grasshopper mowers in the amount of \$1,951. All aye.
- **Barb Reese made the motion** seconded by Linda Neyer to advertise to accept bids for the Crown Vic police car. After a discussion the ad will be put on the web site and Facebook for 1 (one) week. If at least 3 bids are not received an advertisement will be placed in the newspaper. This is an “As Is” purchase. All aye. A resident suggested advertising on Municibid web site.
- **Linda Neyer made the motion** seconded by Linda Kashner to adopt Ordinance 2016-01 amending a portion of the Official Zoning Map of the Borough of Catawissa with regard to Parcel Number 08 05 13300000, 709 Mill Street, Catawissa to rezone said parcel from R-1 to LI. This was passed in 2013 but was not in the minutes. Therefore it needed to be reestablished. All aye.
- **Linda Kashner made the motion** seconded by Barb Reese to advertise for an RFP (request for proposal) for Auditor. All aye.
- **Doug Krum made the motion** seconded by Linda Kashner to accept the proposal from Computation regarding a RAID system (computer server system). All aye.
- **Linda Neyer made the motion** seconded by Doug Krum to discuss the zoning fee.
- **Linda Kashner made the motion** seconded by Linda Neyer to table the zoning fee cost until some research can be done. All aye.
- **Linda Kashner made the motion** seconded by Linda Neyer to advertise the adoption of Ordinance 2016-02 an Ordinance authorizing council of the Borough of Catawissa to make changes to parking restrictions and off street parking, Chapters 7 of the Catawissa Borough Code. This was not advertised in 2007 when originally adopted. All aye

- **Barb Reese made the motion** seconded by Linda Neyer to advertise the adoption of Ordinance 2016-03 and Ordinance of the Borough of Catawissa in regard to the Office of Borough of Catawissa Manager. Gary made some changes to the wording in regards to the amount the Manager can approve without Council approval. The first ordinance stated \$3,000, the change is \$750. This was not advertised in 2007. All aye.
- **Linda Kashner made the motion** seconded by Doug Krum to consider the purchase of 1 or 2 benches to be placed at 336 Main St. After a discussion, **Jay Roberts made the motion** to table this until more information and pricing can be obtained. Barb Reese seconded the motion. All aye. Tony McDonald suggested contacting the Boy Scouts as an Eagle Scout project or Vo-Tech.
- **Linda Kashner made the motion** seconded by Barb Reese to allow Fred Hess to apply for the CDGB grant for roads. All aye.
- Linda Kashner asked about adult probation. Fred Hess will look into this.
- Gary Steinruck spoke to Greg Dibble, our PennDOT representative regarding the cross walks. The signs in the middle of the road are not working and keep getting run over or moved. Mr. Dibble explained that there are grants available for lights but they will not be open until next year.
- **Linda Neyer made the motion** seconded by Jay Roberts to send a mass mailing with a newsletter and information regarding ACH/Budget plan. All aye.
- Mayor Achy asked about the Maittlin-Harris property. Attorney McDonald stated a lien is on the property.
- **Linda Kashner made the motion** seconded by Jay Roberts to allow South Street Church to close South Street between Second Street and Berger Avenue for their annual Block Party on September 3, 2016. All aye.

FINANCE:

- Doug Krum made the motion seconded by Jay Roberts to accept the payment of bills as written. All aye.

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Denise Bedio introduced herself as the Independent candidate for State Representative in the 109th District.
- Jennifer Kuldsza, Councilperson of Briar Creek Borough introduced herself. She wanted to see a meeting from a different Council to see how other meetings are run.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

MEETING ADJOURNED:

Submitted by:
Kimberly Rhoades
Secretary