

CATAWISSA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY September 12, 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, Mayor Frank “Jeff” Achy, Manager Fred Hess, Attorney Anthony McDonald.
- Absent were: Joe Benware and Barb Reese.

READING OF MINUTES:

- Motion to dispense reading of and approve minutes of December 7th, 2015 and August 8th 2016 meeting minutes made by Linda Kashner, 2nd by Jay Roberts.
- Corrections to previous minutes from meeting of August 8th, 2016 by Linda Kashner and Linda Neyer:
- Page 3 under Economic Development, first bullet, “Espholey” changed to “Nespoli”; Page 2 under Police, 5th bullet, should state “medical reasons”; Page 4 under New Business, 7th bullet, “t” changed to “to”.
- An explanation of the reconstruction of the December 7th, 2015 minutes was given. This was due to a change in staff that left the minutes incomplete and therefore had the last two pages of the minutes from the October 2015 minutes instead of the December 2015 minutes.
- All Aye with changes as discussed.

GUEST TO BE HEARD:

- Robert Leadbeter was scheduled to speak of the local government assisting in getting the regional ISP’s to expand their broadband offerings but he was not present.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- No correspondence.

MAYOR:

- Mayor Achy recommended Officer Stefani Gallie be presented with a “Life Saving Commendation” in recognition of her outstanding service providing life saving measures on scene of an infant with an obstructed air-way. Doug Krum made the motion for the commendation. 2nd by Jay Roberts. All Aye
- Mayor Achy recommended Officer Henry Roote be presented with a “Life Saving Commendation” in recognition of his outstanding service providing life saving measures on scene of an adult suffering from positional asphyxia. It was noted by Council President, Gary Steinruck, that Catawissa Borough will reimburse Officer Roote for his broken cell phone which was due to Officer Roote’s actions needed in breaking a door down in order to access the victim. Motion made to present the commendation to Officer Roote by Jay Roberts, 2nd by Linda Kashner.
- All Aye

Staff and Authority Reports

MANAGER'S REPORT:

- Borough Manager Fred Hess stated that he submitted a proposal for a CDGB Grant for the resurfacing of Pfahler Street.
- He has been working on bringing past due electric accounts to current status.
- Office is involved with negotiations concerning (2) police contracts. One for the Chief and one for the uniformed officers.
- He is also working on the Senior Center renovations and Sewer plant construction project.
- Borough Manager Fred Hess stated that the Gravel Road Grant has been tabled.

WATER:

- Water Authority Superintendent, Cindy Bachman stated the Water Authority will be flushing fire hydrants on October 3rd, starting at 8:00 a.m.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:

- Code Enforcement Officer James Haney reported there were (29) investigations; (10) letters and emails; (4) door hangers; (8) verbal warnings; (3) citations; (1) building permit and (1) day in court.
- Mr. Haney also mentioned that Catawissa Borough will be receiving an automatic deposit from PEMA in the amount of \$11,782.34 from the flood project.

POLICE:

- Chief Joshua Laidacker stated there were (267) calls for service, as reported by the Columbia County Communications Center.
- The SUV spotlight is not operating. Keystone Communication is to provide an estimate of repair.
- The 2006 Crown Victoria has been taken out of service and was stripped of equipment by Keystone Communications.
- The 2010 Ford Explorer is no longer under factory warranty after passing 50,000 miles and is more than (5) years old.
- The next Neighborhood Watch meeting is scheduled for October 3rd, 2016, 7:00 p.m. at the Borough Hall. District Magistrate Craig Long will be speaking on the Judicial Process.
- Officer Craig Johnson has completed his training and will be working to cover shifts starting in September.
- The Public Safety Committee has interviewed and recommended Hugh Clinton for hire as a part time police officer. He has passed the background investigation.
- Officers Hayes and Hagemeyer remain off the schedule due to medical conditions.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

- Doug Krum mentioned about interviewing the candidate for the part time officer position.

UTILITIES:

- Utility Chairperson, Linda Kashner reported there were (6) meters pulled, (1) water shut off, (103) electric late notices and (58) late sewer notices. There is \$36,714.00 owed for current and past due electric bills and \$3,887.00 owed for past due sewer bills.

- Landlord-tenant notices will be sent in the next few weeks. The landlord has (30) days to pay. The tenant has the choice to pay but if the electric or the sewer is not paid, the water and/or electric will be shut off.

PARKS & RECREATION:

- Committee Chairperson, Linda Kashner announced Senior Day was a success with about (40) seniors attending.
- Linda Kashner also mentioned about leasing the Donna Snyder property to the Little League. If the Little League is interested in leasing the ground for \$1.00 per year they will have to agree to maintain the property. The conditions are to be put in a contract if the Little League is agreeable.
- There will be no Santa Day.

PROPERTY & BUILDING MAINTENANCE:

- Council President, Gary Steinruck noted the Sewer project is about 80% completed.
- The Senior Center oil storage tank has been removed and installed inside of the building. The back of the Senior Center will be utilized for handicap parking.
- Gary Steinruck mentioned that he sent a thank you letter to Mr. Klinger and others for their assistance in helping put the fence back up at the ball field.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION:

- Committee Chairperson, Linda Kashner read the Borough's account balances. General Fund is \$145,498.00; Electric Account is \$7,194.00 and the Sewer Account is \$9,943.00 in the red (again mainly due to the ongoing flood mitigation.)
- The committee is to start on the 2017 budget. All departments have been requested to submit their budgets to the office.

UNION:

- Gary Steinruck, Council President, stated there had been a last offer to the Police Department and unless they (the Police Department) step forward and make some changes the negotiations are going into arbitration.
- October 12th and October 24th are the dates to start negotiations with the Borough employees.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

- Councilwoman Barb Reese, who was absent, sent a note which was read by Linda Kashner stating a committee has been formed and she is trying to get a common time to enable Rick Kisner and Josh Nespoli to attend. They continue to work on getting together.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Council may adopt Ordinance 2016-2 Authorizing Council of the Borough of Catawissa to make changes to parking restrictions and off street parking, Chapter 7 of the Catawissa Borough Code. Motion was made by Linda Kashner, 2nd by Doug Krum for discussion. Linda Neyer stated that there is a correction needed which is the misspelled word "ordinance" at the top of the first page as well as some other typos that require correction. The ordinance states that the Code Officers are to do the enforcement. This is to be modified to state "Code Officers or Police Officers" are to do the enforcement. Advertising is not necessary to make these changes. All Aye for passing the ordinance with changes.

- Council may adopt Ordinance 2016-03 in regard to the Office of Borough of Catawissa Manager. Motion made by Linda Kashner, 2nd by Linda Neyer for discussion. Linda Neyer went over the corrections needed. Council President, Gary Steinruck said to table the ordinance until the corrections are made. All Aye

NEW BUSINESS:

- Council may consider the sale of the safe door from the basement of the borough building. Motion by Linda Kashner, 2nd by Gary Steinruck for discussion. A person offered to purchase the door and tumblers for \$331.00. After the discussion it was decided that the safe door and tumblers should be advertised for bids. Motion for advertising for bid made by Linda Kashner, 2nd by Jay Roberts. All Aye
- Council may hire Potter Construction to repair the front of the Borough Hall at an estimated cost of \$2,350.00. Motion was made by Linda Kashner, 2nd by Jay Roberts to hire Potter Construction to repair the front of the Borough Hall. All Aye
- Council may approve the annual Halloween Parade. Motion was made by Linda Kashner, 2nd by Linda Neyer to approve the annual Halloween Parade. All Aye
- Council decided to table, until next month, the approval for an amount for the volunteer dinner. Motion made by Doug Krum, 2nd by Linda Neyer. All Aye
- Council approved a donation to the Halloween Parade Committee to help offset costs in the amount of \$2,000.00. The Parade will be held October 29, 2016 with a rain date of October 30th. Motion made by Linda Neyer, 2nd by Linda Kashner. All Aye
- Council approved allowing the Fire Company to conduct a “Boot Drive”. Motion made by Linda Kashner, 2nd by Jay Roberts. All Aye
- Council may discuss the restriction of public parking on Borough owned property. Motion for discussion made by Doug Krum, 2nd by Linda Kashner. Restriction of public parking on Borough owned property is tabled until next month’s meeting when Borough Manager Fred Hess has the Addendum completed. All Aye
- Council approved advertising the acceptance of bids for the sale of the Police Department’s Ford Crown Victoria. Motion made by Jay Roberts, 2nd by Linda Neyer. All Aye
- Council approved advertising for part time police officers with suggestions of different avenues for the advertisements, such as Careerlink, Borough website, etc. Council also discussed the issue of police overtime. Motion made by Linda Neyer, 2nd by Doug Krum. All Aye
- Council voted to hire Hugh Clinton as part time police officer. Motion by Doug Krum, 2nd by Linda Neyer. All Aye
- Council awarded the bid for the plumbing contract to BOGNET in the amount of \$18,888.00 for the Community Center Project. Motion by Linda Kashner, 2nd by Doug Krum. All Aye
- Council awarded the bid for the electric contract to (Mark) Conner Electric in the amount of \$9,761.00 for the Community Center project. Motion made by Linda Kashner, 2nd by Linda Neyer. All Aye
- Council appointed Borough Manager Fred Hess as “Right to Know Officer” for the Borough. Motion by Doug Krum, 2nd by Jay Roberts. All Aye
- Council accepted the Minimal Municipal Obligation Budget for 2017 for the Police Pension Fund at \$19,913 but agree to try to fund the Pension fund as much as the 2017 budget would allow to a maximum market value obligation of \$28,022. Motion for discussion was made by Jay Roberts, 2nd by Linda Kashner. Motion was then made for acceptance of the Municipal Obligation Budget by Jay Roberts, 2nd by Linda Kashner. All Aye

- Council may accept the Minimal Municipal Obligation Budget for 2017 for the Non-Uniform Fund at \$28,335, but agree to try to fund the Pension fund as much as the 2017 budget would allow to a maximum market value obligation of \$46,589. Motion made by Jay Roberts, 2nd by Linda Neyer for discussion. Acceptance of the Minimal Municipal Obligation Budget for the 2017 Non-Uniform Fund. All Aye
- Council President, Gary Steinruck announced that there would be a short executive session after the meeting to discuss personnel issues.

21. FINANCE Payment of Bills. Motion to accept as written made by Linda Kashner, 2nd by Jay Roberts. All Aye

22. GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Catawissa Water Authority Superintendent, Cindy Bachman, made note that the previously mentioned “water turn off” was due to nonpayment of the sewer billing.

23. ADJOURNMENT:

- Motion to adjourn made by Jay Roberts, 2nd by Doug Krum. All Aye

MEETING ADJORNED.

Submitted by:
Nancy M Yost
Treasurer