

CATAWISSA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2013 6:30 P.M.
307 MAIN ST., CATAWISSA, PA 17820

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, Manager Chris Moonis, Attorney McDonald.
- Mayor Achy was absent.

Council President Scott Keefer announced that there was an executive session of council prior to the regularly scheduled meeting to discuss personnel matters.

Council meetings will have an officer on duty until further notice due to recent area events.

READING OF MINUTES:

- Joe Benware made the motion to dispense with the reading of and approve the minutes of the previous months' meeting. Tim Benner seconded the motion. All aye.

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- No guests spoke at this time.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- The PSAB Fall Conference will be held on Friday, October 18-20, 2013 from 6-9 p.m. at the Sheraton Station Square in Pittsburgh, PA.
- The Catawissa Halloween Parade Committee is seeking donations.
- Forest McClintock made a motion to donate \$2,000 to the Catawissa Halloween Parade Committee. Gary Steinruck seconded the motion. All aye.

MAYOR:

- Mayor Achy was not in attendance to give his report.

Staff and Authority Reports

MANAGER'S REPORT:

- Borough Manager Chris Moonis reported that the official financial audit will be available to Council before the October Council meeting. Chris will place them in Council's mailboxes as soon as they become available.
- Chris Moonis summarized the employee's work activities for the month of August.
- Gary Steinruck explained that the window repair at the Senior Center has begun and the finished windows look good. The contractor is now power washing the building. This is the capping and painting of the windows approved at last month's meeting.

WATER:

- Water Authority Superintendent Cindy Bachman reported that the Authority will be flushing water hydrants October 7, 2013.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:

- Code Enforcement Officer James Haney was not in attendance to give a report.

POLICE:

- Chief Anthony Kopitsky reported that during the month of August the police responded to 211 (two hundred eleven) activity reports as recorded by the Columbia County Communications Center.
- Chief Kopitsky reported that the 2014 Ford PPI was placed in service on August 28, 2013.
- All officers have completed their CPR/AED training. With the exception of 1 (one) or 2 (two) officers needing to re-qualify with the firearms, all required training has been completed.
- Chief thanked Linda Kashner for assisting in getting the Police Department another laptop and a desktop from Bloomsburg University. Chief Kopitsky picked the computers up on August 26, 2013 and Kinn's Computer is deleting any and all of the University information.
- Saturday, October 26, 2013 will be the 7th DEA National Drug Take Back Day. The Borough is registered and will be participating with Montour Township and Catawissa Township at the Borough Police Station.
- Chief Kopitsky also thanked the Catawissa VFW for their donation to the Police Department of \$500 (five hundred dollars) to be placed in the departments' equipment fund.
- The Catawissa Parade Committee submitted a letter requesting permission from the Borough to have their 106th (one hundred sixth) Halloween Parade on Saturday, October 26, 2013 with a rain date of Sunday, October 27th. This request is a requirement.
- Chief Kopitsky requested approval from Council to spend up to \$300.00 (three hundred dollars) for food from an area vendor to feed the volunteers who come out to assist with the parade. Chief realizes there's another council meeting before the parade, but would like to make the arrangements with the vendor in advance.
- Due to the tragedy in Ross Township last month at their Council Meeting, an officer has been assigned to be here for the security, safety and well-being of all until Chief or the Council feels it would not be necessary.
- Gary Steinruck made the motion to approve the request from Chief Kopitsky to spend up to \$300 for food from an area vendor to feed the volunteers who come out to assist with the Halloween Parade. Linda Kashner seconded the motion. All aye.
- Barb Reese made to motion to honor the Halloween Parade Committee's request that the parade be held on Saturday, October 26, 2013 with a rain date of October 27, 2013. Joe Benware seconded the motion. All aye.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

- Committee Chairman Forest McClintock asked that the area behind Melick's Aquafeed next to the river be cleaned.

UTILITIES:

- Committee Chairperson Linda Kashner reported that 139 (one hundred thirty-nine) electric late notices and 66 (sixty-six) sewer late notices were sent this month for non-payment of bills.

During the warm season 7 (seven) meters were pulled for non-payment and 19 (nineteen) delinquent accounts were filed at the District Magistrates Office.

PARKS & RECREATION:

- Committee Co-Chairman Joe Benware reported that Senior Day was a success and the seniors were very pleased.
- “Santa Day” will be held on December 7, 2013 at the Catawissa Fire Hall.

ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

- Committee Chairperson Barb Reese reported the committee has been working on developing a 10 (ten) year 2023 Development Plan. Surveys were sent to the businesses in town and all asked for improved parking in the Borough. The committee will be meeting with Fred Gaffney of the Chamber of Commerce to go over the plan and list any ideas he may add. The committee would like to bring the plan to council next month.

PROPERTY/BUILDING MAINTENANCE CHAIRMAN:

- Committee Chairperson Gary Steinruck had nothing to add.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION CHAIRMAN:

- Committee Chairman Scott Keefer reported there has been no movement on the non-uniform union contract and work on the 2014 budget has begun.
- Doug Krum asked what the hold-up is for contract negotiations.
- Linda Kashner asked if the borough received any insurance quotes for health care and liability. Chris explained that quotes have been obtained and he will share them with Linda at a later time.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- There was no unfinished business at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Linda Kashner made the motion to accept a \$500 check from the Central Susquehanna Community Foundation to be deposited into a fund held by the Borough so that the Borough can process a check of equal value to the Catawissa Military Band for their assistance with Columbia County Bicentennial. Tim Benner seconded the motion. All aye.
- Barb Reese made the motion to accept a \$1,000 check from the Central Susquehanna Community Foundation to be deposited into a fund held by the Borough so that the Borough can process a check of equal value to the Catawissa Halloween Parade Committee for their assistance with Columbia County Bicentennial. Gary Steinruck seconded the motion. All aye. Barb Reese and Linda Kashner expressed their gratitude for the work that the Halloween Parade Committee and the Military Band do for the borough and the monetary donation from the Central Susquehanna Community Foundation for these organizations.
- Linda Kashner made the motion to pay Mike Petro Excavation an additional \$1,413.78 for unexpected costs (e.g. garbage, papers, debris, furniture, etc...) in the demolition and disposal of the former Maittlen-Harris property on Walnut Street. Scott Keefer seconded the motion. Chris Moonis explained to Council that this expense is above the contract price. Because of the amount of debris in the building both Chris Moonis and Scott Keefer felt the need for the contractor to remove it by hand. This was to prevent the debris from flying throughout the

borough. All aye. Barb Reese asked the status of the title transfer of the aforementioned property. Tony McDonald explained that he spoke to the attorney in charge of the property and the company with the lien is just not in a hurry to withdraw. Attorney McDonald asked for a total amount the borough has in the property for a lien.

- Linda Kashner asked the status of the Metzger property. Attorney McDonald will investigate this property.
- Barb Reese made the motion to accept the Minimal Municipal Obligation Budget for 2014 for the Police Pension Fund at \$19,697, but agree to try to fund the Pension fund as much as the 2014 budget would allow to a maximum market value obligation of \$34,171. Scott Keefer seconded the motion. All aye.
- Barb Reese made the motion to accept the Minimal Municipal Obligation Budget for 2014 for the Non-Uniformed Pension Fund at \$39,068, but agree to try to fund the Pension fund as much as the 2014 budget would allow to a maximum market value obligation of \$61,075. Joe Benware seconded the motion. All aye.
- Gary Steinruck made the motion to accept Chief Anthony Kopitsky's retirement effective December 31, 2013 with the outlined stipulations. Forest McClintock seconded the motion. All aye.
- Forest McClintock made the motion to advertise for the position of Chief of Police. Linda Kashner seconded the motion. All aye.

FINANCE:

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

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Sharon Krum asked if the borough workers were mowing the bank on the corner of Pfahler and Shuman Street.
- Pat Hess reported that the new owners of the house on Fox Avenue are parking directly in the alley.
- Ms. Hess also reported that the stop sign on Fox Avenue by the First Columbia Bank is on the wrong side of the road and she did not think it was legal. Chief Kopitsky explained that the previous stop sign had been hit by vehicles a number of times and was moved to the opposite side for safety. He also explained that this is still legal and prosecutable under the state law.
- Sharon Krum asked why the fire trucks from other areas use our water reserve for filling during a fire. Water Superintendent Cindy Bachman explained that the companies fill from the reserve until a dry line plan is established.
- Pat Hess asked why the light bills were late. Mr. Moonis explained that there was a staffing issue.

ADJOURNMENT:

- Forest McClintock made the motion to adjourn. Scott Keefer seconded the motion. All aye.

MEETING ADJOURNED.

Submitted by:

Kimberly Rhoades

Secretary