

CATAWISSA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY May 8, 2017 – 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.

READING OF MINUTES:

- Motion by Barbara Reese to approve the minutes from previous meeting of April 10, 2016, 2nd by Linda Kashner

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Mike Lester of the Press Enterprise requested a copy of the contract between Catawissa Borough and their electric provider. Mr. Lester also mentioned legislation initiated by State Representative Aaron Bernstine which will restrict the amount Boroughs can charge residents for their electricity.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- There was no correspondence to report.

MAYOR:

- Mayor Jeff Achy made mention of the traffic lines that were painted near Blass's Garage and an issue regarding a resident that is parking too close to the street end of 2nd Street and Quinn Avenue, which brought up a discussion of the legal distance which vehicles are allowed to park a vehicle from the end of the street.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

- Manager Fred Hess reported he worked on painting specifications for the Community Center, assisted with installing doors at the Borough Hall, worked on the CDBG Street Grant, is working on the Federal Energy Report "EIA-#861.". Manager Hess also stated he worked on the Police and Non-Uniform pensions agreements and also on the FEMA Grant Proposal.
- Manager Fred Hess reported the Street Department worked on installing doors at the Borough Hall, mowed and trimmed grass, picked up leaves and brush, repaired and painted benches, participated in Dumpster Day and attended training classes. Manager Hess noted Crystal Stoker earned her CDL license.
- Manager Fred Hess reported the Electric Department worked on installing doors at the Borough Hall, tested transformers, mowed grass, trimmed trees at the Sewer Plant, read electric meters and performed other miscellaneous electrical work.

WATER:

- Water Authority Superintendent, Cindy Bachman had nothing to report.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:

- Code Enforcement Officer, James Haney, stated for the month of April, 2017 the Zoning Department had (22) investigations, (6) door hangers, sent (5) letters, issued (2) verbal warnings, (3) zoning permits. There were no citations issued. There were no days in court.

POLICE:

- Police Chief, Joshua Laidacker was absent. Mayor Frank "Jeff" Achy read Chief Laidacker's report which stated during the month of April, 2017 the department responded to (252) calls for service, as reported by the Columbia County Communications Center.
- The Police SUV was taken to Metzger Ford for repairs of the fuel sensor on the dash. The part was order.
- 32 pounds of unused or expired medication was collected during the Drug Take Back Day on April 15th.
- The second annual charity "Red/Blue Game" will be held May 21st, 1:00 PM at the Catawissa Little League Field on South Third Street. This year's event will benefit the Catawissa Little League.

- An issue reported last month regarding the time clock has been corrected.
- Officer Gallie attended mandatory NJET training on April 6th. Several Officers will be attending updates in the month of May.
- Officer Hagemeyer remains off the schedule due to medical.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

- Nothing to report.

UTILITIES:

- Councilwoman Linda Kashner reported there were (3) pulled meters. She then proceeded to read the totals owed the Borough from open and closed utility accounts.
- Linda Kashner mentioned she would like a policy stating when a utility customer owes over \$500.00 during the wintertime the Borough should let the landlord know the meter will be pulled if the past due is not paid. This will be discussed further.

PARKS & RECREATION:

- Committee Chairperson, Linda Kashner announced Dumpster Day was a great success with approximately 200 people. She would like to thank all those who assisted with Dumpster Day.
- Linda Kashner noted the Community-wide yard sale is May 27th. This year's Concert Series begins on June 27th with the Catawissa Military Band. Linda Kashner has obtained Young's Funny Farm to be in attendance during Kid's Day.

PROPERTY & BUILDING MAINTENANCE:

- Council President, Gary Steinruck reported contractors were looking at the Quaker Meeting House regarding the repairs that needed to be done.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION:

- Committee Chairperson, Linda Kashner read the Borough's account balances.

UNION:

- Gary Steinruck, Council President stated the Public Works contract agreement is settled. One signature is still needed on the contract.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

- Councilwoman Barb Reese stated Catawissa Dreamers will meet May 11th, 6:30 PM at the Borough Hall.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- No unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A motion was made by Linda Kashner, 2nd by Linda Neyer to purchase a replacement Volute submersible pump model# CT-3102. 181-4" for the Sewage Treatment Plant in the amount of \$6,200.00. All Aye.
- A motion was made to accept the bid from Creative Landscapes, Inc. for the repair of the existing steps at Quaker Grove in the amount of \$1,725.00. Motion made by Barbara Reese, 2nd by Doug Krum. All Aye.
- A motion was made to accept the bid from Creative Landscapes, Inc. for weed control for 2017, for the Borough in the amount of \$1,600.00. Motion made by Linda Neyer, 2nd by Barbara Reese. All Aye.
- A motion was made to award the interior painting bid for the Community Center Project. Motion made by Barbara Reese, 2nd by Linda Kasher. All Aye.
- Upon opening the bids received for the interior painting bid for the Community Center Project, Manager Fred Hess read the bid amounts which were Spotts Brothers bid was \$23,800.00, S&R Custom Homes bid was \$7,950.00 and Brannon Painting's bid was \$11,735.00. A motion to award the Community Center interior painting bid to S&R Custom Homes, providing all criteria is met was made by Linda Kashner, 2nd by Barbara Reese. All Aye.
- A motion was made by Barbara Reese, 2nd by Linda Neyer to hire Duane Swank as a part time seasonal Borough employee at a starting rate of \$13.00 per hour. All Aye.
- A motion was made by Doug Krum, 2nd by Linda Neyer to approve the Proclamation designating May 21 – 27, 2017 as "Emergency Medical Service Week." All Aye.
- A motion was made to approve a Resolution to Appoint Fred Hess, Borough Manager as a liaison between Catawissa Borough and Berkheimer, for the express purpose of sharing confidential tax information with the Borough for official purposes. Motion made by Linda Kashner, 2nd by Doug

Krum. After a discussion initiated by Linda Kashner, it was agreed to also add Nancy Yost, Treasurer to the Resolution. Motion made by Linda Kashner, 2nd by Doug Krum. All Aye.

- A motion was made by Linda Neyer, 2nd by Jay Roberts to have a discussion to amend Ordinance 2016-01 to include "Retail Businesses, Clubs and/or Military Veterans Service Organization."
- After discussion, a motion to amend Ordinance 2016-01 to include "Retail Businesses, Clubs and/or Military Veterans Service Organization" was made by Linda Kashner, 2nd by Barbara Reese. All Aye.
- A motion was made by Linda Kashner, 2nd by Barbara Reese for a discussion to change the final due date on the past due utility bills to the 5th of each month, unless the 5th falls on a weekend or holiday. After the discussion, Council agreed to change the final due date on past due utility bills to the 5th of each month and have Attorney Anthony McDonald do a rough draft of an Ordinance. A motion to do change the date and compose a rough draft of an Ordinance was made by Linda Kasher, 2nd by Barbara Reese. All Aye.
- A motion to have a discussion regarding the Catawissa Little League's request for a donation was made by Doug Krum, 2nd by Linda Neyer.
- After the discussion regarding the Catawissa Little League's request for a donation, of which it was noted the Borough provided a donation the previous month and also paid \$849.00 for dirt for the Little League field plus repairing the fencing, Doug Krum made a motion to donate \$50.00. 2nd by Jay Roberts. There were three Ayes and four Nays. Motion did not carry.
- A motion was made by Linda Neyer, 2nd by Doug Krum to purchase the Police Department a new printer. Council authorized Manager Fred Hess and Council President Gary Steinruck to purchase a printer if the need arises before next month's meeting that is similar to the estimates for printers presented by Chief Joshua Laidacker. All Aye.
- Council President Gary Steinruck mentioned the Sewer Plant has been completed. With regard to the loan taken to pay for the Sewer Plant renovations, only interest payments were being made. The Borough is to start repayment of the loan which is in the amount of \$700,000.00. First Columbia Bank & Trust offered several options on the repayment. It will be for a period of (20) years at a rate of 2.38% for the first five years, thereafter a rate of 2.255 variable with a 4.00% cap. A motion for discussion was made by Jay Roberts, 2nd by Doug Krum. During the discussion, it was decided to have Attorney Anthony McDonald draw up a loan agreement, which may have to go through DCED. Council President, Gary Steinruck, made mention that Catawissa Borough should be receiving \$197,000 from PEMA to be paid toward the loan amount. Council decided to go with monthly payments. Motion made by Doug Krum, 2nd by Jay Roberts. All Aye.
- Council President Gary Steinruck stated Council is changing the Ordinance number 114; §111; paragraph one concerning containers used for storage of municipal waste. Attorney Anthony McDonald is to work on this. Motion made by Doug Krum, 2nd by Jay Roberts. All Aye.
- Council President Gary Steinruck made a motion, 2nd by Linda Kasher to research a sewer problem issue Joe Gaughan is having with the sewer line from his home to the connection at the main sewer line. Mr. Gaughan stated the sewer line from his home is ¾ the way out to the middle of the street which would mean Mr. Gaughan would have to have someone dig up the street if it were his responsibility to repair the line. Council President Gary Steinruck and Borough Manager Fred Hess are to research this issue in order to better understand if the resident is responsible to the end of the curb or the entire way to the main sewer line. All Aye.

FINANCE PAYMENT OF BILLS:

- Motion to accept payment of bills as written made by Barbara Reese, 2nd by Linda Neyer. All Aye.

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Borough residents, Kris Waugh and Michael Lindenmuth started a discussion with Council and Zoning Officer James Haney regarding an ongoing issue they are having with a neighbor continually having bags of garbage piling up along with an old sofa sitting outside. Waugh and Lindenmuth also noted the same neighbor continually uses foul language, loudly, while outside. Zoning Officer James Haney is to investigate the issues while Officer Gallie informed the residents to call the Police Department when these things are occurring.

ADJORNMENT:

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

MEETING ADJORNED.

Submitted by:

Nancy M Yost

Treasurer