

CATAWISSA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY January 3, 2018 – 6:30 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER:

- The meeting was called to order by Mayor, Tim Benner.
- The pledge of allegiance was recited.

ROLL CALL:

- Present were: Gary Steinruck, Linda Neyer, Anthony “AJ” McKenney, Doug Krum, Mary Neyer, Linda Kashner, Barbara Reese, Mayor Tim Benner, Manager Fred Hess. Absent was Attorney Anthony McDonald.

NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

- Mayor Tim Benner called for a nomination for Council President
- Linda Neyer nominated Doug Krum as Council President, 2nd by AJ McKenney. Linda Kashner nominated Gary Steinruck as Council President, 2nd by Barb Reese. A roll call vote was taken for Doug Krum as Council President. Gary Steinruck, Nay; Linda Neyer, Aye; AJ McKenney, Aye; Doug Krum, Aye; Mary Neyer, Aye; Linda Kashner, Nay; Barb Reese, Nay. Motion carries.
- Mayor Tim Benner called for a nomination for Council Vice President
- Mary Neyer nominated Linda Neyer as Council Vice President. Linda Kashner nominated Barb Reese as Council Vice President. A roll call vote was taken for Linda Neyer as Council Vice President. Gary Steinruck, Nay; Linda Neyer, Aye; AJ McKenney, Aye; Doug Krum, Aye; Mary Neyer, Aye; Linda Kashner, Nay; Barb Reese, Nay. Motion carries.
- Council President Doug Krum nominated AJ McKenney as Council President Pro Tem. No other nominations were offered. All Aye.
- Borough Secretary Connie Cole submitted the following names Jeff Achy and George Hughey for the vacant chairman seat on the Vacancy Hearing Board. Council President Doug Krum nominated Jeff Achy as Vacancy Board Chairman. All Aye.

READING OF MINUTES:

- A motion was made by AJ McKenney, 2nd by Linda Neyer to approve minutes of the Dec. 11th meeting. All Aye

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- No guests to be heard

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Borough Secretary Connie Cole read a Thank You card from the Senior Center for the donation of Gift Cards.

MAYOR:

- Mayor Tim Benner had nothing to report at this time.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

- Manager Fred Hess reported the Street Department picked up leaves and brush, changed light bulbs at the Community Center, installed a hand rail extension at the Community Center lobby, did set-up work for the Open House at the Community Center, did prep work for the first snow storm. On 12/14/2017 the Street Department plowed snow, cleared sidewalks, salt and cindered, repaired sign posts and installed new signs.
- Manager Fred Hess reported the Electric Department read meters, installed limiters on meters, replaced a service cable at Pine Street, worked on the lights at the Community Center, cleaned snow from sidewalks, re-fused a 50 KVA transformer on Pine Street, had an electrical test done on the bucket truck to be certified and picked up leaves and brush.
- Manager Fred Hess reported his office worked personnel issues, retainer agreements, pedestrian crossing project, codification project, Recycling Center issues and any other issues that arose during the Month of December.
- Borough Manager Fred Hess reported The Quaker Meeting House Restoration Grant was approved for \$12,615.00.
- Borough Manager Fred Hess reported we are 30 to 60 days out from getting FEMA funds.

WATER:

- Water Authority Superintendent, Cindy Bachman was absent. Borough Manager Fred Hess stated there was nothing to report.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:

- Borough Manager Fred Hess read the Code Enforcement report as follows:
- The Code Enforcement Office investigated (8) issues, sent (44) letters, placed (2) door hanger and issued (3) verbal warnings. (3) permits were issued and (0) days were spent in court.

POLICE:

- Police Chief Joshua Laidacker reported there was no statistics from the Dispatch Center for December or year-end reports. Police Chief Laidacker also reported the following:
- Officer Rebeck has received his certification from MPOETC, and has started to cover shifts. His training continues.
- 2018 marks the 125th year of the Police Department in the Borough.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

- Committee Chairperson Doug Krum had nothing at this time.

UTILITIES:

- Councilwoman Linda Kashner reported there were (132) electric late notices (69) sewer late notices issued.
- Councilwoman Linda Kashner reported there was a CD that came due. There was extra money in the electric account that we did not expect to use. So we added money to the CD amount to make it \$150,000. We were able to get a rate of 2.0 for 35 months with First Keystone Bank.
- Councilwoman Linda Kashner reported if the PPAC was still in effect for December \$9000 would have been deduct from the electric account.
- Councilwoman Linda Kashner reported a \$90,000 sewer loan payment was made on the principal in December. A total of \$103,000 was paid directly on the principal in 2017. Hopefully we will received \$196,000 from FEMA to go directly on the principal.

- In 2018 Council would like to make an extra payment of \$20,000 each quarter directly to the principal. If this payment is made at the end of 2018 that would be a total of \$134,000 paid on the principal.

PARKS & RECREATION:

- Committee Chairperson Linda Kashner reported she received a call from the Catawissa Military Band asking to have the tribute to veterans moved to June 26th 2018. The Military Band has many activities going on July 4th 2018 so July 3rd would not work.
- Committee Chairperson Linda Kashner reported the grant request was faxed to Degenstein the last week of December. If we do not receive any grant money from Degenstein, we will not have the concert series.

PROPERTY & BUILDING MAINTENANCE:

- Councilman Gary Steinruck reported we have an inspection of The Community Center coming up.
- Councilwoman Barb Reese asked some questions about the inspection.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION:

- Committee Chairperson Linda Kashner read account balances.
- Committee Chairperson Linda Kashner reported we were able to transfer the \$10,000 paid by the person with the PEMA/FEMA error to the Capital Fund.

UNION:

- There are no union negotiations.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

- Committee Chairperson Barb Reese reported the Open House for the Community Center was not very well attended.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- A motion was made by Barb Reese, 2nd by Linda Neyer to discuss the Catawissa Community Center Rental Policy. After reviewing the draft policy and a discussion. A motion was made by Barb Reese, 2nd by Linda Neyer to adopt the Catawissa Community Center Rental Policy with the deposit amount changed to \$100.00. All Aye. Councilwoman Linda Neyer made note that this policy was adopted from the New Berlin Community Center Rental Policy
- A motion was made by Linda Kashner, 2nd by AJ McKenney to approve Ordinance 01-2018 regarding Rules and Regulations concerning Recreational Fires. Councilwoman Linda Kashner and Councilman AJ Mckenney rescinded their motion. Ordinance 01-2018 was tabled.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A motion was made by Linda Kashner, 2nd by Gary Steinruck to appoint Larson Design Group as Borough Engineer with no charge of a retainer fee. All Aye.
- A motion was made by Barb Reese, 2nd by Doug Krum to appoint Attorney Anthony McDonald as Borough Solicitor with no rate increase for the year of 2018 and 2019. All Aye.
- A motion was made by Linda Kashner, 2nd by Barb Reese to appoint Eric Brown as Borough Labor Attorney. All Aye

- A motion was made by Doug Krum, 2nd by AJ McKenney to appoint Gene C. Powlus as Borough Sewage Enforcement Officer. All Aye.
- A motion was made by Linda Neyer, 2nd by Gary Steinruck to appoint Dick Martz to the Catawissa Water Authority Board for a 5 year term. All Aye
- A motion was made by Gary Steinruck, 2nd by AJ McKenney for a discussion regarding fuel oil prices and suppliers. After a discussion a motion was made by Doug Krum, 2nd by Gary Steinruck to appoint Bloom Heating as the heating oil supplier. All Aye.
- A motion was made by Linda Neyer, 2nd by Barb Reese to accept the new lease for the Senior Center with a 3% increase. All Aye.
- A motion was made by Doug Krum, 2nd by Linda Neyer to purchase 40 new transformers at \$1360.00. All Aye. ** See February Approval Of Minutes **
- A motion was made by Linda Neyer, 2nd by Gary Steinruck to purchase a Hobart mig welder from Tractor Supply in the amount of \$519.99 for Street, Electric and Sewer Departments to use. All Aye.
- Borough Manager Fred Hess started a discussion about putting a crosswalk at Cemetery & Mill Street. Councilman Gary Steinruck reported Penn Dot stated the Borough can put a crosswalk at any intersection but they do not recommend it at this location. Council President Doug Krum asked Police Chief Joshua Laidacker to do a speed study on traffic going north bound. Police Chief Laidacker stated his concerns for pedestrians walking out into crosswalks without watching for oncoming traffic. Councilwoman Mary Neyer stated according to Penn Dot the sidewalks will need to be updated to the current standards. Guest Sharon Krum expressed her opinion that a crosswalk was not a good idea. Councilman Gary Steinruck stated paper work was submitted for flashing lights. Borough Manager Fred Hess stated he has phone calls into Penn Dot regarding signs for crosswalks.
- A motion was made by Doug Krum, 2nd by Linda Neyer for a discussion regarding the appointing of the full-time seat opened on the Civil Service Commission. Borough Secretary Connie Cole reported Jeff Achy was interested in the full-time position and Elwood Heaps was interested in the alternate position on the Civil Service commission. A motion was made by Doug Krum, 2nd by Linda Neyer to appoint Jeff Achy to the full-time position on the Civil Service Commission. All Aye
- A motion was made by Linda Kashner, 2nd by Doug Krum to appoint Elwood Heaps to the alternate position on the Civil Service Commission. All Aye.
- Councilwoman Linda Kashner asked Borough Manager Fred Hess what was the status of the Union Cemetery survey. Borough Manager Fred Hess reported he spoke with Dave Drumheller. Mr. Drumheller stated he only had a clear map of half of the cemetery which created more work at the courthouse. Mr. Drumheller has that all tied up and is now hoping to have the survey report to the Borough by the end of the month.
- Councilwoman Linda Kashner asked Borough Manager Fred Hess if the personnel are wearing the uniforms we are paying for. Borough Manager Fred Hess stated all of them are wearing them except Harry Young. Also Crystal Stoker is waiting on jeans. Borough Manager Fred Hess stated the Borough is only charged for what is turned in to be laundered. Council President Doug Krum stated we will keep an eye on this matter.
- A motion was made by Barb Reese, 2nd by Gary Steinruck to approve \$129.00 for Borough Manager Fred Hess to take a course on Microsoft Word. The course is provided by Marywood, an online program to be taken on his own time for 6 weeks and takes 24 hours to complete. All Aye

FINANCE PAYMENT OF BILLS:

- Motion to accept payment of bills as written made by Doug Krum, 2nd by Barb Reese. All Aye

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- No guests to be heard.

ADJOURNMENT:

- Motion to adjourn made by Gary Steinruck, 2nd by AJ McKenney. All Aye.

MEETING ADJOURNED.

An Executive Session was held after the Council Meeting.

Submitted by:

Connie M. Cole
Secretary