

CATAWISSA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY June 5, 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, Mayor Frank "Jeff" Achy, Manager Fred Hess, Attorney Anthony McDonald. Joe Benware and Barb Reese was absent.

READING OF MINUTES:

- Motion by Linda Kashner to approve the minutes from previous meeting of May 8 , 2017, 2nd by Linda Neyer. All Aye

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Cryil Kowalick of 256 Main St Apt 4, expressed his dissatisfaction with his meter being pulled and unprofessional customer service on May 9, 2017. Mr. Kowalick signed a promissory note to pay \$157.00 and forgot to pay. Mr. Kowalick's electric meter was pulled on May 9, 2017 for nonpayment of promissory note. When Mr. Kowalick called the Borough Office he was notified that his past due amount of \$157.00 needed to be paid along with the reconnection fee of a \$100.00 for a total of \$257.00 for his electric service to be turned back on. Mr. Kowalick came into the Borough Hall to talk to Borough Manager Fred Hess. Mr. Kowalick explained he did not have \$257.00, he only had \$163.00 in his pocket. Borough Manager Fred Hess accepted the \$163.00 as payment and turned Mr. Kowalick's electric back on the same day. Mr. Kowalick was not satisfied with this service. He felt he should have been notified right before his meter was pulled.
Council Members and Attorney Anthony McDonald stated that procedures were followed as written in the promissory note. Mr. Kowalick expressed his concern with the Borough's need to work more with people. Attorney Anthony McDonald stated Borough Manager, Fred Hess didn't insist on the full \$100.00 to reconnect Mr. Kowalick's electric so Borough Manager, Fred Hess did work with him. Council explained that a promissory note is the Borough's way of working with people in need. Councilwoman, Linda Kashner mentioned to Mr. Kowalick the names of Salvation Army, Agape and the Christian Ministerium here in town and if he contacts them they may help. Linda Kashner also added that we could give him those numbers. Mr. Kowalick stated he already had those numbers.
- Roger Steffen mentioned it is written in Catawissa's Ordinance that a resident needs to be notified when pulling the meter. Attorney Anthony McDonald explained Mr. Kowalick was notified. Councilwoman, Linda Kashner explained a promissory note precedes the Ordinance, and Mr. Kowalick was already late. He signed a promissory note and in the promissory note it is stated if a promissory note was not paid on the due date the electric meter will be pulled the next day.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- There was no correspondence to report.

MAYOR:

- Mayor Jeff Achy made mention of the traffic lines that were painted on 2nd and Quinn Streets are helping.
- Mayor Jeff Achy made mention the pedestrian cross walks are working well.
- Mayor Jeff Achy mentioned concerns about parking on 2nd St.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

- Manager Fred Hess reported the Street Department participated in Dumpster Day, mowed and trimmed; picked-up and hauled brush, serviced equipment, trimmed trees in the parks, worked on replacing signs and cleaned out Community Center to get ready for painting.
- Manager Fred Hess reported the Electric Department replaced meters, serviced chainsaws, took down the cross on the bluff, read meters, cut trees and brush at Sewer Plant.
- Manager Fred Hess reported his office worked on the Federal Energy Report "EIA-#861", the FEMA Grant Proposal, the Community Center painting project, the 5th – Fox Ave. paving project, participated in the Insurance Liability Review and the Pension Audit.

WATER:

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

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:

- Code Enforcement Officer, James Haney, stated for the month of May, 2017 the Zoning Department had (18) investigations, (2) door hangers, sent (6) letters, issued (9) verbal warnings and (2) zoning permits. There were no citations issued. There were no days in court.
- Code Enforcement Officer, James Haney, stated a demo permit has been issued for the garage on Shuman St. A contractor will start when a check is signed by the mortgage co. and returned to Butler's Lawyer.
- Code Enforcement Officer James Haney noted issues on North 2nd Street are being monitored.

POLICE:

- Police Chief, Joshua Laidacker read the monthly report which stated during the month of May, 2017 the department responded to (271) 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 second annual charity "Red/Blue Game" raised \$1000.00 for the Catawissa Little League.
- The department is currently investigating thefts from motor vehicles in the Borough. Eight vehicles were broken into within 10 days. Chief Laidacker would like to remind residents to keep their vehicles locked and if residents see someone walking around at night that doesn't look right or acting suspicious they should call 911.
- Police Chief, Joshua Laidacker and Officer Colella attended the Woodland Training Exercise as part of their SWAT Training.
- Several Officers attended updates in the month of May. All updates are now complete.
- Officer Hagemeyer remains off the schedule due to medical.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

- Council President, Gary Steinruck lead a discussion about residents request to use speed traps.

UTILITIES:

- Councilwoman Linda Kashner, Council President Gary Steinruck, Councilwoman Barb Reese and Borough Treasurer Nancy Yost went to Watsontown Borough to look at their electric billing to see some things Catawissa Borough was not using. Watsontown uses the same Diversified Software as Catawissa Borough. Treasurer Nancy Yost and Borough Secretary Connie Cole have implemented some changes.
- Councilwoman Linda Kashner reported herself and Borough Treasurer Nancy Yost will be going to Diversified on their next billing day to see a demo of the pressure sealed billings.
- Councilwoman Linda Kashner reported there were no pulled meters. She then proceeded to read the totals owed the Borough from open and closed utility accounts.

PARKS & RECREATION:

- Committee Chairperson, Linda Kashner announced the Community Yard Sale was a great success.
- Committee Chairperson, Linda Kashner noted residents need to be reminded no tape can be used on metal poles. When tape is removed it removes the paint. No nails can be used on the telephone poles.
- Committee Chairperson, Linda Kashner announced Kid's Day is June 24th a meeting will be held to finalize the date.
- Committee Chairperson, Linda Kashner noted Concert Series will start June 27th with the Catawissa Military Band. If there is a rain out, the Catawissa Fire Hall has agreed we can hold the concert in the banquet hall.

PROPERTY & BUILDING MAINTENANCE:

- Council President Gary Steinruck reported the painting on the Community Center will be starting in the near future.
- Council President Gary Steinruck mentioned there have been two quotes for the repairs to the Quaker Meeting House.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION:

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

- Committee Chairperson, Linda Kashner reported the Electric Committee is going to review the expenses and income for the Electric Company.

UNION:

- Gary Steinruck, Council President stated negotiations are all settled.
- Gary Steinruck, Council President informed Council the insurance policy the police officers had is no longer available. A Policy almost identical had to be offered and it has been done.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

- In the absence of Committee Chairperson Barb Reese, Councilwoman Linda Neyer reported there will be a Catawissa residents meeting on Wed. June 7th, 6:00 PM at the Community Center to plan extra events during the annual Halloween Parade. Everyone is invited to attend. Some things being discussed or planned during this meeting will be Antique & Classic Car Cruise In, Pumpkin Carving, Vendor Window Decorating, Food and Craft Vendors for Eyer Park during the cruise in.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- A motion was made by Linda Neyer, 2nd by Doug Krum to discuss amending the Ordinance Regarding Sewer Laterals. After a discussion initiated by Attorney Anthony McDonald, a motion was made by Doug Krum, 2nd by Linda Neyer to amend and advertise the Ordinance regarding Sewer Laterals. All Aye.
- A discussion was initiated by Attorney Anthony McDonald on the changing of the definition section in the zoning ordinance regarding certain clubs & veteran's organizations. After discussion a motion was made by Linda Kashner, 2nd by Doug Krum to hold a public meeting. The public meeting will be properly advertised and posted for July 10, 2017 at 6pm in the Catawissa Borough Hall. All Aye.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A motion was made by Linda Neyer, 2nd by Linda Kashner to adopt Resolution 2017-07 Act 44 Professional Service Contract as it relates to Pennsylvania Municipal Pensions. All Aye.
- A motion was made by Linda Kashner, 2nd by Linda Neyer to accept the 2016 Audit. All Aye.
- A motion was made by Linda Kashner, 2nd by Doug Krum to approve the Flood Insurance Policy for the Belt Press Building at the Waste Water Treatment Plant in the amount of \$567.00. All Aye.
- After reading of the Ordinance 01-2017 by Attorney Anthony McDonald. A motion was made for discussion by Linda Neyer, 2nd by Linda Kashner. After the discussion to accept Ordinance 01-2017 relating to rubbish containers all agreed to accept. All Aye.
- Upon opening the bids received for the street paving of 5th St – Fox Ave., Manager Fred Hess read the bid amounts which were Robert C. Young bid was \$54,709.05, H.R.I. bid was \$59,649.00, Don E. Bower Inc. bid was \$55,733.75, M & M Asphalt Corp. bid was \$ 59,176.75, New Enterprise Stone and Lime bid was \$74,836.00, Sokol Inc. bid was \$51,827.00, Barletta Materials bid was \$88,769.00 and Glen O. Hawbaker Inc. bid was \$83,000.00. A motion to award the paving bid to Sokol Inc., providing all criteria is met was made by Doug Krum, 2nd by Jay Roberts. All Aye.
- A discussion was initiated by Council President, Gary Steinruck regarding the Borough Code Book. Every Council Member is given a Borough Code Book. Council Members are to return Borough Code Books to Borough Manager, Fred Hess if for any reason a member leaves council.

FINANCE PAYMENT OF BILLS:

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

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Borough resident, AJ McKenney started a discussion with Council about the Welcome to Catawissa signs and their removal. Council informed Mr. McKenney Catawissa Borough received a reprieve. A permit was applied for which included the signs near the Borough Hall and the church signs at the playground. Council does not know the status of the permits.
- Borough resident, Patty Hess initiated a discussion with Police Chief Joshua Laidacker regarding who can use of the gun range and about shooting on a Sunday. Police Chief Joshua Laidacker stated the gun range is open to law enforcement or anyone escorted by an instructor. The gun range is open with no restriction on days or times.

Police Chief Joshua Laidacker also stated law enforcement from outside of the Borough help with upkeep of the gun range.

- George Hughey, North 4th Street asked what happened with the Catawissa Crime Watch Program. Chief Joshua Laidacker replied there were only three people at the last meeting. He was hoping to get more interest. No one would come forward to offer to run the program. If someone would step up he will get the program going again.
- Councilwoman Linda Kashner mentioned that PPL was giving out different varieties of trees. Water Authority Superintendent Cindy Bachman noted three Ash Trees at Eyer Park were going to be lost this year and another tree at Cara Park. Doug Krum made a motion to apply for the free trees from PPL. The motion was 2nd by Linda Neyer. All Aye.

ADJORNMENT:

- Motion made by Doug Krum, 2nd by Linda Neyer. All Aye.

MEETING ADJORNED.

Submitted by:
Connie M. Cole
Secretary