

**CATAWISSA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**MONDAY July 10, 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, Joe Benware, Linda Kashner, Barbara Reese, Mayor Frank "Jeff" Achy, Manager Fred Hess, Attorney Anthony McDonald.

**READING OF MINUTES:**

- Motion by Linda Kashner to approve the minutes from previous meeting of June 5, 2017, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Joe Benware.  
All Aye

**GUESTS TO BE HEARD:**

- Jeannie Waters, Senior Center member, shared her concern about speeders going by the Senior Center. After some discussion Council appointed Fred Hess, Borough Manager and the Safety Committee to look into the options to reduce speeding on Pine Street by the Senior Center and bring them back to Council.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

- There was no correspondence to report.

**MAYOR:**

- Mayor Jeff Achy mentioned he spoke with Borough Manager, Fred Hess about the resident who was looking to get handicap parking. The resident hasn't answered her door for the Mayor to help her with that issue. Mayor Jeff Achy also mentioned there is another problem going on there for if she ever had to get out her back door, it is blocked shut.
- Mayor Jeff Achy mentioned the gentleman on Walnut Street complained about grass and Mayor Achy told him to fill out another form and give it to Borough Manager Fred Hess.
- Mayor Jeff Achy said another resident complained about parking and Mayor Achy advised them to talk to Police Chief, Joshua Laidacker and speak to the Zoning Officer.

**MANAGER'S REPORT:**

- Manager Fred Hess reported the Street Department did line painting, mowed and weed wacked, picked-up and hauled brush, painted and did step repair behind borough hall, helped set up for Kids Day, moved furniture at boro hall and other small things that needed taken care of at borough hall.
- Manager Fred Hess reported the Electric Department mowed and weed wacked, installed a banner across Main Street, read meters, did repair work to the T- tag dump truck, removed the OCR's for servicing, installed a new light pole, flagged for the street department, worked on Borough Hall project, trimmed and chipped brush.
- Manager Fred Hess reported the Sewer Department did general testing and clean up.
- Manager Fred Hess reported his office worked on the Bureau Liability Insurance review, attended interviews and personnel meetings, worked on the Community Center painting project, and attended the DCED Administrative School in State College, worked on PEMA Grant Proposal, worked on past due utility accounts and other day to day business.
- Manager Fred Hess reported the repair of the Quaker Meeting House steps is tentatively set to start on July 18, 2017.
- Manager Fred Hess reported we received the payment for Catawissa Township's portion of Dumpster Day.
- Manager Fred Hess reported that the Condominium project on the Condominium Property on South 3<sup>rd</sup> Street is not going to come to fruition. MCR Services has been notified of a weed problem and they need to get it cleaned up. MCR Services was given 10 days to take care of the matter.
- Manager Fred Hess reported the grant to repave Pfahler Street has been approved. We are just waiting for the funds to put the bid out.

WATER:

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

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:

- Code Enforcement Report was given by Borough Manager, Fred Hess, it was stated for the month of June , 2017 the Zoning Department had (28) investigations, (7) door hangers, sent (4) letters, issued (5) verbal warnings and (3) zoning permits. There were (2) citations issued. There were no days in court.
- Manager Fred Hess stated the garage at the rear of Shuman Street has been demolished and removed.
- Manager Fred Hess noted issues on North 3rd Street continue to be monitored, two citations have been issued and a permit issued for an above ground pool. Zoning Permits have been sent to Tri County. The buildings on Norfolk Southern railroad property behind South 1<sup>st</sup> Street have been demolished and removed.

POLICE:

- Police Chief, Joshua Laidacker read the monthly report which stated during the month of June, 2017 the department responded to (305) calls for service, as reported by the Columbia County Communications Center.
- Police Chief, Joshua Laidacker reported both vehicles were inspected and the 2014 unmarked car had new tires installed.
- The department time clock is not working properly.
- Officer Hagemeyer offered her resignation due to medical issues effective August 01, 2017
- Officer Roote has resigned effective July 01, 2017
- Officer Johnson has resigned effective August 01, 2017.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

- Committee Chairman, Joe Benware had nothing to report

UTILITIES:

- Councilwoman Linda Kashner reported there were (47) door hangers and (1) pulled meter. She then proceeded to read the totals owed the Borough from open and closed utility accounts.
- Council President, Gary Steinruck commended the Electric Committee, Fred Hess, Nancy Yost and Connie for the good job on collecting Electric money.

PARKS & RECREATION:

- Committee Chairperson, Linda Kashner announced we had 47 kids register for Kids Day. At the last minute Degenstein donated money for kids day and senior day but it was too late to add activities to kids day.
- Committee Chairperson, Linda Kashner would like to thank the Christian Church for their help with the games and donating tents, Alicia Hollingshead with the painting of the rocks, Elizabeth and Mary Neyer for helping with face painting and the bounce house, Crystal Stoker, Linda Neyer, Doug Krum and Barb Reese for helping with the Kids Day event and Bob Reese and Wayne Kashner for cooking the hot dogs.
- Committee Chairperson, Linda Kashner announced Senior Day is August 18, 2017. Letters will go out to Commissioners, Representative Millard and other who participate in Senior Day. Lanny Lee and The Traveling Library will be there.
- Committee Chairperson, Linda Kashner noted the roses that were planted a few years ago are diseased and will come out soon. The flower boxes where the roses are planted need to be fixed before new roses can be planted.
- Committee Chairperson, Doug Krum mentioned he would like to thank Tim Simmons for the extra coolers, Crystal Stoker and Travis Stoker for volunteering, Schlieders' donating tents, Catawissa VFW for their donation of Bicycle Helmets and Officer Gallie for finger printing for Kids Day.

PROPERTY & BUILDING MAINTENANCE:

- Council President Gary Steinruck had nothing to report.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION:

- Committee Chairperson, Linda Kashner read the Borough's account balances.
- Committee Chairperson, Linda Kashner stated the PPAC is high and so higher accounts are getting big discounts so she believes this is keeping the income down but we are hanging in there.

- Committee Chairperson, Linda Kashner noted herself and Manager Fred Hess will be keeping an eye on the budget over the next few months.

#### UNION:

- Gary Steinruck, Council President stated no negotiations are going on right now all are settled.

#### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

- Committee Chairperson Barb Reese reported there will be a “Catawissa Car Cruise In” the same day as the Halloween Parade from 1-4pm at Eyer Park. They are looking for vendors. There is going to be a pumpkin decorating contest. The Lions Club is working with the Southern Columbia Art Department to have the business windows painted downtown. The empty lots on the south side of 1<sup>st</sup> Street will be used for this event.
- Committee Chairperson Barb Reese noted the next Catawissa Dreamers meeting is July 19<sup>th</sup> at the Senior Center.
- Committee Chairperson, Barb Reese mentioned the Catawissa Fire Company is holding a Costume Dance after the Catawissa Halloween Parade. They will have an Alcohol Permit and the band “Deuce” will be performing. There will be a cover charge.
- Water Authority Superintendent, Cindy Bachman stated there will be water available for vendors where they can hook up to the hydrant at Eyer Park and carry it back to their space.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Council President Gary Steinruck reported there was no unfinished business.

#### COUNCIL ADJOURNED FOR AN EXECUTIVE SESSION.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

- A motion was made by Doug Krum, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Joe Benware to reappoint Harold Kitchen as a Civil Service Commissioner. All Aye.
- A motion was made by Linda Neyer, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jay Roberts to accept the resignations of part-time Police Officers Henry Roote effective July 1, 2017, Craig Johnson effective August 1, 2017 and Jonna Hagemeyer effective August 1, 2017. All Aye.
- A motion was made by Joe Benware, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jay Roberts to advertise for new part-time Police Officers.  
All Aye
- A motion was made by Linda Kashner, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Linda Neyer to accept the resignation of Code Enforcement Officer, James Haney. All Aye
- A motion was made by Linda Kashner, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Joe Benware to hire John Micklo as a part-time Public Works employee at an hourly rate of \$13.00/hr. His total hours per week are not to exceed 24 hrs. All Aye.
- A motion was made by Linda Neyer, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jay Roberts to amend Sewer Ordinance No. 114 dated May 27, 1952 regarding responsibilities of the property owner. All Aye.
- A discussion regarding the dress code/uniform issue for Borough Employees was tabled at this time.
- A motion to discuss the repairs to Quaker Meeting House was made by Doug Krum, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Joe Benware. After discussion, a motion was made by Linda Kashner, 2<sup>nd</sup> Barb Reese to accept the bid for the repairs of the Quaker Meeting House from Dolittle Construction in the amount of \$13,292.00, contingent all repairs comply with the National Historical Society. All Aye
- A motion was made by Linda Kashner, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Barb Reese to accept Ordinance 03-2017 amending Chapter 27, Section 7(A) regarding permitted uses for Light Industrial Use District. All Aye
- A motion was made by Linda Kashner, 2<sup>nd</sup> Barb Reese to accept Ordinance 02-2017 amending Chapter 8, Section 19 relating to disconnection of electric service. All Aye
- A motion was made by Barb Reese, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Doug Krum to approve Resolution 2017-08 regarding a banner permit for “Halloween Fun – Car Cruise In” – 10/10/2017 – 10/28/2017. All Aye.
- A discussion and motion to approve a contract extension with Next Era Energy was tabled until more information is obtained.
- A motion for a discussion was made by Jay Roberts, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Linda Neyer to approve a donation to the Columbia Montour Aging Office, Inc. for their fundraiser. After discussion a motion was made by Jay Roberts, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Linda Neyer to approve a \$100.00 donation to the Columbia Montour Aging Office, Inc. All Aye.

#### FINANCE PAYMENT OF BILLS:

- Motion to accept payment of bills as written made by Linda Kashner, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Barb Reese. All Aye.

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- There was no guest to be heard.

ADJORNMENT:

- Motion made by Joe Benware, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jay Roberts. All Aye.

MEETING ADJORNED.

Submitted by:  
Connie M. Cole  
Secretary