

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

READING OF MINUTES:

- After two corrections were made, a motion by Barb Reese was made to approve the minutes from previous meeting of July 10, 2017, 2nd by Joe Benware. All Aye

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Harold Kitchen asked about a burn ordinance in the borough. Harold said he is getting smoke at his property every weekend. He has notified the police. After discussion about the burn ordinance Council President, Gary Steinruck asked Police Chief Joshua Laidacker to keep an eye out.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- There was no correspondence to report.

MAYOR:

- Mayor Jeff Achy mentioned the dates in the letter received from the Catawissa Halloween Parade Committee were wrong for the parade. Mayor Achy mentioned a speed sign. He was informed the safety committee is going to address the issue later in the meeting.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

- Manager Fred Hess reported the Street Department mowed grass, trimmed weeds, trimmed trees, did set-up work for concerts at Cara Park, cleaned storm drains, line painting, worked on the road ramp to the river and replaced flooring at the Senior Center.
- Manager Fred Hess reported the Electric Department trimmed trees and brush, worked at the Senior Center replacing flooring, cleaned rain gutters, did floor repair at Community Center, read meters, posted door hangers on past due accounts and set (2) new light poles.
- Manager Fred Hess reported his office worked on personnel issues, the Senior & Community Center flooring issues, employee clothing issues, neighborhood residence issues, and the Borough's Workmen's Comp policy.

WATER:

- Water Authority Superintendent, Cindy Bachman reported a frost proof hydrant was purchased and relocated to Eyer Park and ready to go for activities. There are pieces of slate in Eyer Park that can be moved wherever they need to go.
- Water Authority Superintendent, Cindy Bachman reported they will be replacing plastic water laterals on Pfahler Street prior to the resurfacing project.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:

- Code Enforcement Officer, Brian Rhone stated for the month of July, 2017 the Zoning Department had (24) investigations, no letters were sent, (5) door hangers, (8) verbal warnings and (9) zoning permits. No citations were issued. There was (1) days in court.

POLICE:

- Police Chief, Joshua Laidacker read the monthly report which stated during the month of July, 2017, the department responded to (298) calls for service, as reported by the Columbia County Communications Center.
- Chief Laidacker reported both vehicles were inspected during July.
- Chief Laidacker reported the District Attorney's office will be funding Catawissa's participation in "Crime Watch", a public access reporting system for law enforcement.
- Chief Laidacker reported the department has been approved to receive a donation of an In- Car Camera System for the SUV.
- Chief Laidacker attended the Chief's Conference July 23-26th, 2017
- Officer Hagemeyer and Officer Johnson's resignation became effective August 01, 2017

PUBLIC SAFETY:

- Committee Chairman Joe Benware reported about the investigating of a complaint of speeders going past the Senior Center. Police Chief Laidacker borrowed a speed clock from Riverside. The clock was set up by the Senior Center for 7 days. In that time period there were 2286 vehicles that traveled through. The average speed was 14 mph. 50% of the cars speed was 13 mph, 85% were 16mph and only 4 cars were over the speed limit of 25 mph. Crosswalks were painted at the Senior Center and Borough Manager, Fred Hess told Committee Chairman, Joe Benware that he was made aware the crosswalks are working. Committee Chairman, Joe Benware gave his recommendation of just letting the crosswalks as is and do nothing else at this time.
- Committee Chairperson Joe Benware discussed the Crime Watch App that the District Attorney Office is paying for. Police Chief Joshua Laidacker explained some features of the Crime Watch App and that it is free to the public.

UTILITIES:

- Councilwoman Linda Kashner reported there were (55) door hangers and (3) pulled meters. She then proceeded to read the totals owed the Borough from open and closed utility accounts. Councilwoman Linda Kashner stated we are doing a great job collecting the bills.

PARKS & RECREATION:

- Committee Chairperson Linda Kashner announced Senior Day is August 18, 2017. A balloon man is coming, food is going to be provided, and more.

PROPERTY & BUILDING MAINTENANCE:

- Council President Gary Steinruck announced the repairs on the Quaker Meeting House were held off to see if we could get some grant money. Borough Manager Fred Hess advised Council President Steinruck that there is no grant money until next year. A motion was made by Linda Kashner to hold off and rescind the motion to fix the Quaker Meeting House until next spring when we can apply for grants. The motion was 2nd by Doug Krum. All Aye.
- Council President, Gary Steinruck stated things are progressing in the Community Center and asked Council if they would like to get prices for floor covering over the sub floor in the upstairs of the Community Center or let it the way it is. After a discussion, a motion was made by Linda Kashner and 2nd by Barb Reese to put out for bids on laminate flooring and installation. All Aye.

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. She believes this is keeping the income down but we are hanging in there.

UNION:

- Gary Steinruck, Council President, stated no negotiations are going on.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

- Committee Chairperson Barb Reese reported she called Josh Nespoli at Columbia County Redevelopment to see if she could get them interested in several properties in Catawissa. She is still waiting on a call back from him.
- Committee Chairperson Barb Reese noted events on October 28, 2017 car cruise-in flyers are ready. The cruise-in is being handled by Roy Klinger and his auto students from Penn Tech. Several vendors have signed up but they are still looking for more.
- Committee Chairperson, Barb Reese announced the next Catawissa Dreamers meeting is August 16, 2017 at 7 P.M. at the Senior Center.
- Committee Chairperson, Barb Reese stated Catawissa First Methodist Church would like permission to close South Street from Berger Ave to South 2nd Street on September 10, 2017 from 3pm to 8pm for their block party. A motion was made by Joe Benware and 2nd by Linda Neyer. Chairperson Barb Reese abstained from the vote for the reason of her being the church secretary. All Aye.
- Committee Chairperson, Barb Reese asked Police Chief Joshua Laidacker if they could have a police officer at the block party to do finger printing. Police Chief Laidacker responded "we can do that."

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Councilwoman Linda Kashner asked about the New Era Energy contract extension. Borough Manager, Fred Hess explained New Era Energy is adjusting their rates and we were advised to hold off until September.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A motion was made by Linda Kashner, 2nd by Joe Benware to approve the date of the Catawissa Halloween Parade for October 28th, 2017. All Aye.
- A motion was made by Joe Benware, and 2nd by Barb Reese to approve a \$2000.00 donation to the Catawissa Halloween Parade Committee. All Aye.
- A motion was made by Jay Roberts, 2nd by Linda Neyer to approve \$500.00 for the addition of electrical outlets and materials at the Catawissa Community Center. The work is to be done by the Catawissa Borough Electrical Department. All Aye.
- A motion was made by Barb Reese, 2nd by Linda Neyer to have a discussion to approve having the lower end of the Union Cemetery surveyed. After the discussion a motion was made by Linda Neyer, 2nd by Doug Krum to have the surveying done. All Aye.
- A motion was made by Barb Reese, 2nd by Joe Benware to approve Borough Manger Fred Hess and Borough Treasurer Nancy Yost to attend a Budget Training Class. Jay Roberts Nay. All others Aye.
- A motion was made by Linda Kashner, 2nd by Jay Roberts to approve a \$1,000.00 donation to the Catawissa Hose Company's Annual Carnival. All Aye.
- A motion was made by Doug Krum, 2nd by Linda Neyer to approve a \$500.00 payment to the Commonwealth of PA for the MS4 Program. All Aye.
- A motion was made by Linda Kashner, 2nd by Jay Roberts to approve Ordinance 04-2017 as it relates to sewer laterals. All Aye.
- A motion was made by Barb Reese, 2nd by Linda Neyer to approve Codi Graham to fabricate a new night deposit box at the Borough Hall in the amount not to exceed \$275.00. All Aye.
- A motion was made by Linda Neyer, 2nd by Barb Reese to approve the requesting of quotes for the painting of metal steps at the rear of the Borough Hall Building. All Aye.
- A motion was made by Barb Reese, 2nd by Joe Benware to approve a contract with Dempsey Uniform Supply for work clothing and cleaning for the Public Works Employees at a cost of \$56.50 per week. All Aye.
- A motion was made by Linda Kashner, 2nd by Joe Benware to approve the purchase and installation of vinyl floor covering for the entry area at the Senior Center in the amount of \$488.89, from Garvey's Flooring. All Aye.
- A motion was made by Joe Benware, 2nd by Barb Reese to offer Brian Rhone, Code Enforcement Officer, an afternoon shift of his choosing. This will be in addition to the hours that he is currently scheduled to work. All Aye.
- A motion was made by Barb Reese, 2nd by Linda Neyer to accept the Penn DOT Municipal Winter Traffic Renewal Agreement. This is a 5 year agreement, at a rate pf \$923.87 per year. All Aye.
- After a discussion on the options of the loan for the Waste Water Treatment Plant. A motion was made by Linda Kashner, 2nd by Joe Benware to accept the loan in the amount \$700,000. This left \$5,000 for closing costs and a repayment plan of \$11,580.50 per quarter over 20 years. All Aye.
- A motion to discuss a request for a water cooler for office personnel was made by Barb Reese, 2nd by Linda Kashner. After a discussion a motion was made by Doug Krum, 2nd by Linda Neyer to go with Tulpehocken Water for a water cooler and water. All Aye
- A motion was made by Linda Kashner, 2nd by Joe Benware to have a discussion on the Rails to Trails Project. Borough Manager, Fred Hess explained he did a lot of research on the project and consulted with Mike Kimiecinski, the head of Conservation and Natural Resources in Harrisburg. They found two problems with the Rails to Trails. The first problem is the geography of the trails. Both trails would run into other townships and Catawissa Borough cannot afford to spend money or have the political authority to do so in other townships. The Borough also could not afford the staggering cost of the engineering fees to have the trestle bridges constructed into trail bridges. We would have two trails to nowhere. The second issue is the streets in the borough are in need of repair. Borough Manager, Fred Hess had Clair Kingston compose a list of the streets in need. Mr. Kingston found (11) streets in poor condition and (4) streets in fair condition. A rough estimate to mill, resurface, put in new storm drains and handicap accesses would cost the Borough 3/4 of a million dollars. It will cost \$150,000 to redo the storm culvert behind the Methodist Church. We have the Community Center to finish which is \$3,000 and the Quaker Meeting house which is \$13,000. In addition, we have the Pfahler Street project and the Waste Water Treatment Plant loan to repay. All of this puts the Borough's needs at two million dollars. This shows the geopolitical aspect and what the Borough has to spend on the roads. The Borough cannot afford to do the Rails to Trails. Borough Manager, Fred Hess advised council not to proceed with the Rails to Trails project. A motion was made by Doug Krum, 2nd by Linda Neyer to stop the Rails to Trails Project. All Aye.
- A motion was made by Linda Kashner, 2nd by Barb Reese to have Harry Young attend the PMEA conference September 13, 14 & 15, 2017. Council President, Gary Steinruck and Borough Manger, Fred Hess will be attending the conference Friday September 15, 2017. All Aye.

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, George Hughey stated his address was wrong in the June minutes. The minutes state his address as North 4th Street His correct address is North 3rd Street. Mr. Hughey also explained a tree from a neighboring property hangs close to his house. A limb broke off of the tree and hit the neighbor's car and wires hit his house. Mr. Hughey asked if Code Enforcement could see if there is something that can be done about the tree. Council President, Gary Steinruck stated we will look into it but we cannot guarantee any help.
- Borough residents, Linda and Wayne Kashner, donated a picture of the Catawissa Engine to go along with the Catawissa Train Station hanging in the Borough Hall.
- Borough Resident, Tim Benner asked questions about the new ordinance pertaining to trash cans being left out front all week.
- Borough Resident, Patty Hess stated a drain by her garage is sinking down in. Borough Manager, Fred Hess made note to have the drain looked at.
- Water Authority Superintendent, Cindy Bachman asked when looking at the street issues please consider sewer mains and storm drains too. The Water Authority would work with the Borough to have everything underneath taken care of at the same time.

ADJOURNMENT:

- Motion to adjourn made by Doug Krum, 2nd by Joe Benware. All Aye.

MEETING ADJOURNED.

Submitted by:
Connie M. Cole
Secretary