

**CATAWISSA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY September 11, 2017 – 6:30 P.M.**

An Executive Session was held prior to the Council Meeting.

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:

- A motion to dispense reading of and approve minutes of the previous month's meeting was made by Barbara Reese, 2nd by Joe Benware. All Aye
- A motion to dispense reading of and approve minutes of the previous month's special meeting was made by Joe Benware, 2nd by Linda Neyer. All Aye

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Nicole Slusser of North 2nd Street asked Council if they would consider changing the curfew time from 11:00 pm to an earlier time and also if there is a possibility of having extra police due to unruly youth that are causing issues. After a discussion, Council is to review the Ordinance and Police Chief Laidacker stated he will have officers patrol the area more often.
- Janice Longenberger and Steve Campbell of the Catawissa Halloween Parade Committee stated this year is the 110th year for the parade and they wanted to thank the Council and Borough for all their support. This year there will be fireworks after the parade.
- Mike Leiby, Trustee of the Catawissa First United Methodist Church stated he wanted to discuss the parking issue that appears on the current agenda. Council President, Gary Steinruck, stated Council is to address this issue later in the meeting unless Mr. Leiby needed to do so at this time. Mr. Leiby replied he was not in a hurry and could wait.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- There was no correspondence to report.

MAYOR:

- Mayor Jeff Achy stated he spoke to Police Chief Laidacker concerning the crosswalks, especially in the mornings when the kids are crossing to get on the bus.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

- Manager Fred Hess reported the Street Department mowed grass, weed whacked, picked up brush, install new signs in the parks, filled pot holes in the streets, did line painting on Church Street, installed items at the Senior Center, did set-up work for the carnival, replaced a storm drain on South Street and had Crystal Stoker supervise the paving project on Fox and 5th Street extension.
- Manager Fred Hess reported the Electric Department worked on the door project at Boro Hall, worked on wiring at the Police Station, mowed grass and weed whacked, cut trees on 5th Street extension, set up the electric for the carnival, worked on the OCR at North 2nd Street, trimmed trees for wire clearance, installed a new pole and transformer at North 4th Street, read meters and put up and took down the carnival banner on Main Street.
- Manager Fred Hess reported his office worked on the MS4 exceptions report, applied for a grant for the Quaker Meeting House through CDBG, finished the PEMA WWTP Closeout Report, worked on the new energy price agreement, worked on the Boro Hall door project and worked on the exterior steps painting project
- Manager Fred Hess stated the entry at the Senior Center is finished.
- Manager Fred Hess also stated that the night deposit door is operational.

WATER:

- Water Authority Superintendent Cindy Bachman reported the water company is going to be flushing fire hydrants on October 2nd during the daytime hours.
- Water Authority Superintendent Cindy Bachman reported the water company has a few laterals to complete on Pfahler Street. The water company wants to get this completed before the Borough does it's paving project. They will be moving next to South 3rd and South Street where they are revamping the intersection. Next year they will replace the water main going down South Street toward the Borough Barn.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:

- Code Enforcement Officer, Brian Rhone was absent for the meeting. Borough Manager, Fred Hess read Mr. Rhone's report as follows:
- The Code Enforcement Office investigated (29) issues, sent (8) letters, (6) doorhangers and (9) verbal warnings. (3) permits were issued and (1) day in court.
- Mr. Rhone investigated a complaint from Harold Kitchen about the smell of smoke from a fire. Mr. Rhone found a chimenea sitting at the rear of 217 South 4th street as a possible source.
- Mr. Rhone also investigated a complaint about a tree at 412 South 3rd Street.
- Mr. Rhone's report stated complaints were received about the church blocking the "Paper alley" at the end of South Berger Ave. The Borough will need to find the records that show when the alley was dedicated and/or vacated.

POLICE:

- Police Chief, Joshua Laidacker read the monthly report which stated during the month of August 2017 the department responded to (255) calls for service as reported by the Columbia County Communication Center.
- Police Chief, Joshua Laidacker stated the fuel injector was replace on the 2014 cruiser, which is out of warranty.
- Police Chief, Joshua Laidacker stated there is a Drug Take Back Day on Saturday, October 28th but due to the availability of personnel for the Halloween Parade the Catawissa Police Department cannot hold this event. Chief Laidacker wanted to remind everyone that there is a 24-hour box outside the police station that people can utilize anytime.
- Chief Laidacker mention about a grant from Panasonic in which the company awards a grant to purchase two Tough Books, which are normally \$6,000 each. The Tough Books allows officers to access the JNET system. The grant is a "no match grant." Linda Kashner made a motion for Chief Laidacker to investigate the grant further and also apply for the grant. The motion was 2nd by Doug Krum. All Aye
- Chief Laidacker stated Officer Clinton turned in his resignation, effective October 1st, 2017 stating he has taken another position closer to his residence.
- Chief Laidacker also stated (5) individuals were interviewed for the position of part-time officer.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

- Committee Chairman Joe Benware stated the committee held interviews for the part-time officer positions, which is on the agenda, and worked on the budget for next year.

UTILITIES:

- Councilwoman Linda Kashner reported, as Borough Manager Fred Hess stated, the night drop is available and is being used.
- Councilwoman Linda Kashner reported there were (60) door hangers for electric, (26) door hangers for sewer and (4) pulled meters. Unpaid billing for the June electric due in July is \$80.27 with the sewer being at \$1.00. She also stated unpaid billing for July, due in August for electric is \$3,600 and sewer is \$944.00 for which most of those have promissory notes.
- Councilwoman Linda Kashner then proceeded to state how pleased she is with the current office staff collecting the past due amounts. Council President, Gary Steinruck added that since he is now on the Electric Committee there's not much for the committee to do. He also added, the people in the office have really done a fantastic job and he has never seen the monies that were owed being so low.

PARKS & RECREATION:

- Committee Chairperson Linda Kashner announced Senior Day was a success and she thanked AJ McKenney for assisting during that day.
- Committee Chairperson Linda Kashner stated she would like to do a program to honor our Veterans next year on July 3rd, 2018 with the Catawissa Military Band. This will be part of the Concert Series.

PROPERTY & BUILDING MAINTENANCE:

- Council President Gary Steinruck announced several items have come up on the agenda to be discussed later.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION:

- Committee Chairperson Linda Kashner said she is currently working on the budget for 2018 in which things are very tight, they may need to make some cuts in order to make the budget work.
- Committee Chairperson Linda Kashner proceeded to read the balances of accounts.
- Committee Chairperson Linda Kashner stated they closed on the loan for the moving of the sewer plant.

UNION:

- There are no union negotiations.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

- Committee Chairperson Barb Reese reported she is still waiting to hear back from Columbia County Redevelopment regarding their interest in several properties in Catawissa.
- Committee Chairperson Barb Reese stated that Catawissa Dreamers is now Catawissa Dreaming. The next meeting for Catawissa Dreaming is September 20th, 7:00 pm at the Senior Center.
- Councilwoman Linda Kashner stated that Catawissa Dreaming is a total separate organization from Catawissa Council.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- A discussion and motion to approve a contract extension with Nextera Energy was made by Linda Kashner and 2nd by Linda Neyer.
- Following the discussion of the Nextera Energy contract extension a motion to accept the contract extension was made by Joe Benware, 2nd by Linda Neyer. All Aye

NEW BUSINESS:

- A discussion to approve the minimum municipal obligation for the Borough's Pension Plans, for the year 2018. Motion by Linda Kashner, 2nd by Doug Krum. Following the discussion, a motion was made by Doug Krum, 2nd by Linda Kashner to budget the minimum obligation for the Pension Plans. All Aye
- A motion to accept the resignation of part time Police Officer Hugh Clinton effective September 30, 2017. Motion by Joe Benware, 2nd by Barbara Reese. All Aye
- A motion to accept the resignation of part time Public Works Employee John Micklo effective September 1, 2017. Motion by Linda Kashner, 2nd by Linda Neyer. All Aye
- A discussion to purchase tables and chairs for the Catawissa Community Center. Motion for discussion made by Joe Benware, 2nd by Barbara Reese. Following the discussion, a motion was made by Linda Kashner, 2nd by Barbara Reese to allocate \$3,500.00 for the purchase of tables and chairs for the Catawissa Community Center. All Aye
- A discussion regarding the implementation of a usage policy for the Community Center. Motion by Linda Neyer, 2nd by Barbara Reese. All Aye
- A discussion and motion to replace 190 L.F. of drain pipe on Pfahler St. at a cost of \$6500.00 to \$7000.00. Motion by Linda Kashner, 2nd by Joe Benware. All Aye
- A discussion and motion to place the \$31,000.00 that was allocated for the Rails to Trails Grant into the Capital Equipment Fund. Motion by Linda Kashner, 2nd by Doug Krum. All Aye
- A discussion and motion regarding the Catawissa Christian Church move to the former PNC Bank Building. Motion by Barbara Reese, 2nd by Doug Krum. All Aye
- A discussion and motion regarding the Catawissa Little League's electric power consumption. Motion by Doug Krum, 2nd by Linda Neyer to pay for the Little League's electric consumption from April 1st to June 30th, unless there is Fall Ball, with a cap amount of \$400.00. Six Ayes, with Joe Benware abstaining.
**** Correction Catawissa Baseball is their correct name. Their name was stated incorrectly at the September 11, 2017 meeting****
- A discussion and motion to approve the Borough's participation in the River Town Designation Program. Motion made by Linda Neyer, 2nd Linda Kashner. All Aye
- A discussion regarding the First Methodist Church's change of entry to the parking lot. Motion by Linda Kashner, 2nd by Doug Krum. All Aye
- A discussion and motion to hire the following part time Police Officers at an hourly starting rate of \$15.46 per hour: Daniel Patel, Daniel O'Donnell, Theodore Buriak & Cody Rebeck. Daniel O'Donnell and Cody Rebeck's hiring is pending graduation of Act 120. Motion made by Barbara Reese, 2nd by Doug Krum. All Aye
- A discussion and motion to approve Home Depot's quotation for the floor covering at the Community Center. Motion made by Linda Kashner, 2nd by Linda Neyer. All Aye
- A motion allowing Catawissa Dreaming to close North 1st Street from Main to Pine, October 28th from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm for the Car Cruise-in. Motion by Barbara Reese, 2nd by Doug Krum. All Aye

- A motion allowing parking on South 1st Street for the whole day and evening on October 28th. Motion made by Barbara Reese, 2nd by Joe Benware. All Aye
- Linda Kashner made a motion for the Borough to pay for meals for the Fire Police after the Halloween Parade in the amount of \$400.00, 2nd by Joe Benware. All Aye
- A motion was made by Linda Kashner approving Police Chief Joshua Laidacker's request for the Borough to start an Amazon Prime account in order for the police department to obtain certain items. 2nd by Doug Krum. All Aye
- Councilwoman Linda Kashner asked if anything has been done with the Union Cemetery survey. Manager Fred Hess stated the report is expected to be completed mid-late October.
- Councilwoman Linda Kashner also asked if anyone contacted Mr. Hughey concerning the tree issue on Zoning Officer, Brian Rhone's report. Borough Manager, Fred Hess replied, Mr. Hughey has been contacted.
- Councilwoman Barbara Reese inquired about the installation of a generator plug on the traffic signal at the 5-point intersection which was mentioned and approved in the minutes from April, 2008. Councilwoman Reese was informed the plug had been installed.
- Councilwoman Linda Kashner noted instructions for figuring the PPCA are available for anyone to read, if interested.

FINANCE PAYMENT OF BILLS:

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

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- No guests to be heard.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

MEETING ADJOURNED.

Submitted by:

Nancy M. Yost

Treasurer/Admin. Asst.