

**CATAWISSA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY October 9, 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 with a correction of Catawissa Baseball’s name was made by Barbara Reese, 2nd by Joe Benware. All Aye

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- No guests to be heard

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Borough Secretary Connie Cole read an invitation from Columbia/Montour CBA to join them Thursday November 16, 2017 at 6pm in Danville at Old Forge Brewing Company to meet 3 Elected Legislators and 2 representatives from PSAB.
- Borough Secretary Connie Cole stated the Borough received documents from First Columbia Bank & Trust showing the recent loan of \$1,000,000 is closed. A letter was enclosed thanking the Borough for their business and to keep First Columbia Bank & Trust in mind for any future banking needs.

MAYOR:

- Mayor Jeff Achy stated the Halloween Parade is going to be discussed later in the meeting.

MANAGER’S REPORT:

- Manager Fred Hess reported the Street Department repaired park benches, set metal pipe over an I-Beam at Church & Mill Streets, picked up & hauled brush, mowed & weed wacked, painted street lines at 4th & E. Main Streets, cleaned storm drains, replaced concrete steps at Shuman Street and replaced hardware on Catawissa entry signs.
- Manager Fred Hess reported the Electric Department read meters, replaced photo controls & entry signs at Union Cemetery flag pole, worked on the night deposit box at Borough Hall, outlet boxes & wiring at the community center, Harry attended the PMEA Conference at State College, Chase Petty took & passed his CDL test. They finished the door project at Borough Hall, installed small banners on Main Street and installed the “witch” at the bluff.
- Manager Fred Hess reported his office attended the PMEA Conference, attended a PSAB Budget Training class, worked on the insurance proposals for 2018, code enforcement issues, employee issues, worked on general borough issues as they arise and submitted pension fund reports.
- Manager Fred Hess invited Electric Superintendent Harry Young to speak on what he learned from PMEA Conference he attended.

- Electric Superintendent Harry Young reported it was a good conference. Most of the conference was about Amp and Berlin's diesel generators set up for shaving their peak power, the weather forecast for the year to help stores estimate on how many air conditioners and fans to buy. Automatic Meter Reading was discussed (the price is very high), talked about Borough's under construction Harry talked to Jim Havrilla and he is going to look into the PPAC to make sure everything is ok. Borough Manager Fred Hess reported he is taking care of working with Jim Havrilla on the PPAC.
- Harry Young reported Bernstine from Elwood City wants to pass bill 1405. This will stop all money from electric companies within municipalities from being transferred to general fund. A hearing is being held on November 15th in Harrisburg. They are urging everyone to get involved, contact Vance Oaks President of PMEA or Dave Wolgom to find out the time. Harry suggested at least one or two council members should go to show support in fighting this bill.

WATER:

- Water Authority Superintendent Cindy Bachman reported the projects that are being worked on at S. 3rd & South intersection will be paved by the Halloween Parade.
- Water Authority Cindy Bachman stated they hit & broke a 10" sewer main. The Water Authority borrowed an inflatable plug from the Sewer Department. While the plug was in use it blew up. The Water Authority replaced the plug and returned it along with a new air hose.
- Water Authority Superintendent Cindy Bachman reported a sheet that was in the packets for water consumption at the Sewer Plant was missing costs so she handed out updated sheets. Cindy also stated there was a meeting October 19th on this matter.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:

- Borough Manager Fred Hess read the Code Enforcement report as follows:
- The Code Enforcement Office investigated (14) issues, sent (8) letters, (1) door hanger and (2) verbal warnings, (1) permit was issued and (0) days in court.

POLICE:

- Police Chief Joshua Laidacker read the monthly report which stated during the month of September 2017 the department responded to (313) calls for service as reported by the Columbia County Communication Center.
- Police Chief Joshua Laidacker stated there were minor repairs done to both police vehicles.
- Police Chief Joshua Laidacker stated on the 22nd of September the department held a DUI check point, he apologized for the traffic but it was a very productive check point. On September 28th, 29th & 30th we operated a Roving DUI which was also successful, made some DUI arrests and narcotic arrests and seized some drug monies as well.
- Chief Laidacker also stated the dash camera acquired via grant funds was received, and he is just waiting to be installed in the SUV.
- Police Chief Josh Laidacker reported Officer Clinton's resignation was effective September 30th and has left. Officers Patel and Buriak have begun training and have been certified through MPOETC. Officer O'Donnell has successfully completed the Act 120 program and will begin training in October. Officer Rebeck continues to participate in the ride along program.
- Police Chief, Josh Laidacker reported he received a resignation letter from Officer Messa.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

- Committee Chairperson Joe Benware had nothing to report at this time.

UTILITIES:

- Councilwoman Linda Kashner reported the electric account continues to fall in the red. The outstanding for electric is \$6241.00, sewer is \$935.78 and tomorrow is meter pulling day.
- Councilwoman Linda Kashner then proceeded to state the girls have been doing a fantastic job collecting.

PARKS & RECREATION:

- Committee Chairperson Linda Kashner announced all programs are done.
- Committee Chairperson Linda Kashner stated she would like to do a Christmas tree lighting down at Eyer Park the day after Thanksgiving. Next year for one of our programs she would like to do a salute to the veterans with the VFW and the Catawissa military band. Since the veterans pay for the band they would be involved. The program will be held the end of June or July 3rd

PROPERTY & BUILDING MAINTENANCE:

- Council President Gary Steinruck reported the floors are to be installed in the Community Center on Oct. 25 & 26th unless someone cancels and then we will be moved ahead.
- Council President Gary Steinruck started a discussion about having a heater for the bathroom upstairs at the Community Center to keep the pipes from freezing. A motion was made by Linda Kashner, 2nd by Barb Reese to approve the quote from Freidman Electric in the amount of \$445.27 for a heater for the bathroom upstairs in the Community Center. All Aye

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION:

- Committee Chairperson Linda Kashner read the balances of account
- Committee Chairperson Linda Kashner reported a small loan payment will be made with the normal payment this month
- Committee Chairperson Linda Kashner stated budget meetings are setup for this month. The first one is Wednesday, with several more this month. They are hoping to have a budget ready for the November meeting so it can be advertised and approved by the December meeting.

UNION:

- There are no union negotiations.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

- Committee Chairperson Barb Reese reported things are in place for the event on the 28th. We do need electric down there for certain vendors. Harry did a write up for Committee Chairperson Barb Reese and we have some of the equipment. The amount needed to spend is \$1954.72. The money will come from the economic development account. A motion was made by Barb Reese, 2nd by Linda Neyer to purchase the equipment and install electric. All Aye

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

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

NEW BUSINESS:

- A motion for discussion was made by Linda Kashner, 2nd by Barb Reese to approve the planting of trees at the flood buyout properties on First Street. Following the discussion, this was left go until next year.

- A motion was made by Linda Neyer, 2nd by Jay Roberts to enact a Resolution to destroy recordings of the council meeting minutes once the minutes are approved. All Aye
- A motion was made by Barb Reese, 2nd by Joe Benware for discussion and to select a date for trick or treat night. Mayor Frank "Jeff" Achy suggested October 31st 6:00pm to 8pm. All Aye
- A motion was made by Doug Krum, 2nd by Linda Neyer to eliminate the telephone landlines at the Borough Barn and eliminate (1) landline at The Sewer Plant. All Aye
- A motion to accept the resignation of part time Code Enforcement Officer Brian Rhone effective September 21, 2017. Motion by Jay Roberts, 2nd by Doug Krum. All Aye Council President Gary Steinruck stated Borough Manager Fred Hess will be picking up Mr. Rhone's duties until the Council sees where they are with the budget.
- A motion was made by Linda Kashner, 2nd by Barb Reese for discussion on the Our Town Project. Following the discussion, a motion was made by Jay Roberts, 2nd by Linda Neyer to meet with WVIA and discuss the project. All Aye
- A motion to accept the resignation of part time Police Officer Laura Messa effective October 31, 2017. Motion by Jay Roberts, 2nd by Joe Benware. All Aye
- A motion was made by Linda Kashner, 2nd by Joe Benware to advertise for a part time Police officer. All Aye.

FINANCE PAYMENT OF BILLS:

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

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Barb Reese stated her brother was Council President in Dallastown 10 years ago. The streets in Dallastown were in the same situation as Catawissa's streets and maybe he would come and discuss how Dallastown got out of the situation. Council members were interested in meeting with him and listening to what he had to say.
- Harold Kitchen talked about cracks in the streets needing to be repaired instead of mowing grass all the time. Council member Linda Kashner suggested the grass is not growing so fast now so maybe we could start working on the cracks.
- Attorney Anthony McDonald mentioned at 6:15 pm tonight someone found a wallet at the ATM machine at the bank and gave it to the police.
- Harry Young talked about Fisher Ave to Church St. is getting tractor trailer traffic which it use to be local traffic only.
- Chief Josh Laidacker suggested doing parking on only one side of East Main St to help with the street being narrow and big trucks going through. Borough Manager Fred Hess, Council Member Joe Benware and Police Chief Laidacker are going to look into it and bring their findings back to council.
- Sharon Krum asked a question about people coming down Fisher Ave on the wrong side of the street to go to the daycare. Council member Joe Benware and Chief Laidacker are going to get together on that issue.

ADJOURNMENT:

- Motion to adjourn made by Jay Roberts, 2nd by Linda Neyer. All Aye

MEETING ADJOURNED.

Submitted by:

Connie M. Cole

Borough Secretary