

## **CATAWISSA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MONDAY December 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, Linda Kashner, Barbara Reese, Mayor Frank “Jeff” Achy, Manager Fred Hess, Attorney Anthony McDonald. Absent was Joe Benware

### **READING OF MINUTES:**

- A motion was made by Barb Reese, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Linda Kashner to dispense reading of and approve minutes of the previous month’s meeting. All Aye

### **GUESTS TO BE HEARD:**

- No guests to be heard

### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

- Borough Secretary Connie Cole read an Invitation to Columbia-Montour CBA January Meeting being held at Old Forge Brewing in Danville. RSVP by January 16<sup>th</sup>.
- Borough Secretary also read an Invitation to “Cabinet in Your Community Seminar” at Bloomsburg University on January 16<sup>th</sup> and an invitation to Catawissa Creek Restoration being held at Banquet Hotel in Ringtown on December 20<sup>th</sup>.

### **MAYOR:**

- Mayor Jeff Achy reported garbage is being thrown in the cardboard recycling dumpster and cardboard is not being broken down and thrown in the other recycling dumpster. Councilwoman Linda Kashner made a suggestion of putting cameras up and a sign advertising under surveillance. Councilman Jay Roberts suggested the dumpsters be marked better with bigger signs.
- Councilwoman Linda Kashner asked Police Chief Josh Laidacker the legality of arresting someone who is not a borough resident using our recycling bins. Chief Laidacker said he would have to look into the law regarding recycling further. Guest Tim Benner suggested the Police Chief, look into theft of service.
- Guest Harold Kitchen asked that Fought’s Disposal not come to pick up recycling during quiet hours. Borough Manager Fred Hess stated he spoke with Scott Fought after last Council Meeting and they will not be picking up before 6am.

### **MANAGER’S REPORT:**

- Manager Fred Hess reported the Street Department did sign inspections, assembled storage carts for tables & chairs, placed the new chairs & tables at the community center, installed salt spreaders on the trucks, mowed grass, cleaned up leaves, planted a tree at Eyer Park, installed

new sign at the Recycling Center, trimmed rose bushes at Eyer Park & the Senior Center, did line painting at South 4<sup>th</sup> St., spread stones on Creek Rd., and cleaned storm drains.

- Manager Fred Hess reported the Electric Department cut down trees at Cara Park, installed Christmas lights, a Christmas tree and decorations, read meters, did electrical call out at the Pump House, took down the witch at the Bluff and put up the star, cut & chipped brush.
- Manager Fred Hess reported his office worked on various code issues, researched & prepared the Act 44 Pension Report, worked on the Pa Floodplain Management Report, employee grievance issues, Community Center flooring issues, and other issues that arose during the month of November.
- Councilwoman Linda Kashner inquired if a thank you card was sent to Abrazinskas Nursery for the donation of a tree. Borough Manager Fred Hess stated he sent a letter.
- Councilman Doug Krum inquired why the trees were cut down. Borough Manager Fred Hess explained they were diseased. Council President Gary Steinruck instructed Borough Manager Fred Hess to get the rest of the trees cut down so the Borough can advertise the selling of the wood.

#### WATER:

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

#### CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:

- Borough Manager Fred Hess read the Code Enforcement report as follows:
- The Code Enforcement Office investigated (9) issues, sent (3) letters, placed (1) door hanger and issued (8) verbal warnings. (5) permits were issued and (0) days were spent in court.
- Borough Manager Fred Hess was sworn in as Code Enforcement Officer on November 17, 2017.

#### POLICE:

- Police Chief Joshua Laidacker read the monthly report which stated during the month of November 2017 the department responded to (227) calls for service as reported by the Columbia County Communication Center. Police Chief Laidacker also reported the following:
- Regular maintenance check and oil change was performed on the 2010 SUV patrol vehicle.
- Regular maintenance check was done on the 2014 patrol vehicle.
- They launched the "Watch Guard Program" on November 17<sup>th</sup>. The site is now fully operational.
- Officer O'Donnell is continuing his training. Officer Rebeck has graduated from the Academy and begun his training. We are now working towards his certification.

#### PUBLIC SAFETY:

- Committee Chairperson Doug Krum had nothing at this time.

#### UTILITIES:

- Councilwoman Linda Kashner reported there were (46) electric door hangers (24) sewer door hangers issued and (8) limiters were installed today. She then proceeded to read the totals owed the Borough from open and closed utility accounts. She then stated a fantastic job is being done collecting the electric and sewer payments.

#### PARKS & RECREATION:

- Committee Chairperson Linda Kashner asked for a motion to apply for a Degenstein Grant for the Concert Series and/or Kid's Day and Senior Day. A motion was made by Doug Krum, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Linda Neyer to apply for a Degenstein Grant. All Aye.

#### PROPERTY & BUILDING MAINTENANCE:

- Council President Gary Steinruck reported he was disappointed with the turnout at the Open House for the Community Center.

#### FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION:

- Committee Chairperson Linda Kashner reported we had a CD come due and Borough Treasurer Nancy Yost got a much better interest rate of 1.75% up from .5%. She also stated another CD will be coming due in a few months.
- Committee Chairperson Linda Kashner stated at the end of last year we were going to make a transfer to Capital Fund of \$20,000. The transfer never took place because of a repayment to PEMA/FEMA for a mistake they made, not the Borough. This person has paid back \$10,000. If possible Councilwoman Linda Kashner would like to transfer that money this year.

#### UNION:

- There are no union negotiations.

#### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

- Committee Chairperson Barb Reese reported the last Sunday of November was the Tree Lighting Festivities. About 60 came out to participate in the tree lighting and caroling. The Christian Church opened its doors to enjoy some hot chocolate and cookies. Then everyone proceeded to Riverview Points to sing Christmas carols to the elderly.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Mayor Achy stated he wanted the handicap parking sign removed from in front of Tom Long's residence.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

- A motion was made by Doug Krum, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Barb Reese for a discussion for the adoption of Resolution 2017-12, Prohibiting The Location of a Category 4 Licensed Facility within Catawissa Borough. After a brief discussion a motion was made by Linda Kashner, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Barb Reese to adopt Resolution 2017-12. All Aye.
- A motion was made by Doug Krum, 2<sup>nd</sup> Linda Kashner to look into new billing software since the Visual Billing Software we are using will only be supported for 5 more years. All Aye.
- A motion was made by Linda Neyer, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jay Roberts to approve the fabrication of (9) painted radiator covers for the Community Center. All Aye.
- A motion was made by Linda Kashner, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Barb Reese to approve no increase to Municipal tax rates for 2018. They will stay at 5.67% for real estate and 1.00% for fire tax. All Aye.
- A motion was made by Barb Reese, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Linda Kashner to approve the 2018 Budget. Linda Neyer voted Nay. All other Council members voted Aye.
- A motion was made by Barb Reese, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Linda Neyer to approve meeting dates for 2018. Councilwoman Linda Kashner suggested we make note January 2<sup>nd</sup> is reorganization meeting along with regular council meeting. All Aye.

- A motion for discussion was made by Doug Krum, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Linda Neyer regarding the parking on one side of East Main Street. After a discussion a motion was made to approve an Ordinance. All Nay.
- A motion for discussion was made by Doug Krum, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Linda Neyer regarding a new cross walk at Cemetery & Mill Streets. After a discussion a motion was made to paint the new crosswalk. All Aye.
- A motion was made by Linda Neyer, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Doug Krum to make a donation to the Columbia County Traveling Library at the end of the year after reviewing what is left in General Fund. The donation is not to exceed \$2000.00. All Aye.
- A motion was made by Linda Kashner, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Barb Reese for a discussion regarding an Ordinance on outside Fire Pits and/or Chimineas. After a brief discussion it was decide to table until next month.
- All Aye.
- A motion was made by Linda Neyer, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Linda Kashner to approve the Senior Center Post Inspection Observation corrections. All Aye.
- A motion was made by Linda Kashner, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Barb Reese to discuss the usage, policies and user fees for the Community Center. Guest Harold Kitchen suggested the fees not be too low that the Borough is paying out more than what is brought in. After a discussion it was voted a subcommittee which will consist of Borough Manager Fred Hess and Councilwoman Barb Reese, will bring a draft to January's meeting. All Aye.
- A motion was made by Barb Reese, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Linda Kashner to give a raise in the amount of \$1.00 per hour to Borough Treasurer Nancy Yost effective January 1, 2018. All Aye.
- A motion was made by Barb Reese, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jay Roberts to give a raise in the amount of \$1.00 per hour to Borough Secretary Connie Cole effective January 1, 2018. All Aye.
- A motion was made by Barb Reese, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Doug Krum to have a discussion regarding the vacancy seat on the Catawissa Borough Council for a 2 year term starting in 2018. After a brief discussion a motion was made by Linda Kashner, 2<sup>nd</sup> Doug Krum to appoint Anthony "AJ" McKenney to the vacant seat on the Borough Council. All Aye.
- Guest Harold Kitchen brought up that since Chad Sokol has moved we will need a new board member for the Civil Service Board. Harold has attempted to get a hold of the alternate, Madelyn Temple, about the vacant position on the Civil Service Board. Her phone rings but no one answers and no voicemail is set up.
- A motion was made by Linda Neyer, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Linda Kashner to try to get ahold of Madelyn Temple to see if she is going to take the open Civil Service Board Position and to advertise by Facebook, Borough Website and on the Borough Hall Door for people interested to be on the Board. 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:

- Guest Michael Swartzlander asked about snow removal on Greg Avenue. Mr. Swartzlander stated last year the avenue was not maintained at all. He had a hard time getting out for work. Borough Manager Fred Hess stated this will not happen again.

- Guest Catawissa Water Authority Superintendent Cindy Bachman asked about the 2 grievances that were on the agenda. Council President Gary Steinruck stated they were off the table tonight.
- Councilman Doug Krum thought a Thank You should go to Jeff Achy, Jay Roberts and Joe Benware for their service for the last few years.
- Councilman Doug Krum made a suggestion we make an honorary day for Southern Columbia Tigers Day in recognition of their 8<sup>th</sup> State Championship. A motion was made by Doug Krum, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Linda Neyer to mark December 15<sup>th</sup> as Honorary Southern Columbia Tiger Day. All Aye.
- Councilwoman Linda Neyer stated she has a junior at Southern Columbia that would be happy to organize the painting of the store windows for Halloween next year.
- Council President Gary Steinruck personally thanked Council Members who are leaving for their service and to please turn in code books with keys.

ADJOURNMENT:

- Motion to adjourn made by Doug Krum, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Linda Neyer. All Aye.

MEETING ADJOURNED.

Submitted by:  
Connie M. Cole  
Secretary