

**CATAWISSA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY November 13, 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 Linda Kashner, 2nd by Jay Roberts. All Aye

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- No guests to be heard

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Borough Secretary Connie Cole read (2) Thank you cards sent from the Catawissa Parade Committee thanking Borough Employees and Council for the support and donation.
- Borough Secretary reminded Council Members an RSVP for the Columbia Montour Visitors Bureau's Member Appreciation Night was needed by Tuesday November 14th if they wish to attend.
- Councilwoman Linda Kashner read parts of the Press Enterprise article about the PPCA (should have been PPAC) and stated what was wrong and gave the correct information that should have been in the article.

MAYOR:

- Mayor Jeff Achy is going to look into the possibility of eliminating the handicap parking spot in front of Tom Long's residence.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

- Manager Fred Hess reported the Street Department mowed grass, weed wacked, hauled brush, serviced equipment-mowers, prepped for the Halloween Parade (placed barrels, signs and barricades), filled pot holes, cleaned storm drains, trimmed trees, painted railroad crossing lines on Main St., set up tables for the car show and did leaf pick up.
- Manager Fred Hess reported the Electric Department installed a curb stop at the recycling center, read meters, pulled meters, worked on the wiring at the Senior Center, installed electric heat in the bathroom area at the Community Center, dug and set (3) light poles, installed electric panels, hung a 25KVA transformer, installed a lightening arrestor and (2) 240V receptacles, installed 100ft triplex wire; hung meter bases at car show area, cut a tree down on Kline Ave., reset an electric pole and installed new wire to (3) services on Kline Ave., and installed electric drops for the Halloween Parade.
- Manager Fred Hess reported his office met with AMP Representatives regarding Borough Electric Accounts, worked on Sewer Plant water issues, attended Budget meetings, worked on the budget, dealt with various code enforcement issues, and various issues that arose during the month of October.

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 (10) issues, sent (9) letters, placed (2) door hangers and issued (3) verbal warnings. (1) permit was issued and (0) days were spent in court.

POLICE:

- Police Chief Joshua Laidacker read the monthly report which stated during the month of September 2017 the department responded to (209) calls for service as reported by the Columbia County Communication Center. Police Chief Laidacker also reported the following.
- Winter tires were installed on both patrol vehicles.
- We had a good Halloween Parade. It was very busy and the Officers did very well.
- The department completed the survey for Penn Dot on East Main St. regarding the parking issue.
- They had a soft launch on the "Watch Guard Program" on November 3rd. A Press Conference will be held November 17th to announce the county wide launch.

- The Watch Guard camera was installed in the SUV.
- Officer O'Donnell has completed all ACT 120 requirements. He has been sworn in and is in the process of his road training.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

- Committee Chairperson Joe Benware had nothing at this time.

UTILITIES:

- Councilwoman Linda Kashner reported there were (55) electric door hangers (26) sewer door hangers issued and (5) meters pulled. In the next coming month limiters will be put on instead of pulling meters. She then proceeded to read the totals owed the Borough from open and closed utility accounts.

PARKS & RECREATION:

- Committee Chairperson Linda Kashner had nothing at this time.

PROPERTY & BUILDING MAINTENANCE:

- Council President Gary Steinruck reported the Community Center is moving along nicely. He also proposed having an open house in December if everything comes together with the Community Center.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION:

- Committee Chairperson Linda Kashner read the balances of accounts.
- Committee Chairperson Linda Kashner stated at the end of the year there may be a lump sum available to apply towards the principle of the Sewer Plant loan.

UNION:

- There are no union negotiations.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

- Committee Chairperson Barb Reese reported Catawissa Dreaming is having a "Tree Lighting Event" at Eyer Park on November 26th at 6 p.m. – 8p.m. Santa Claus, Mrs. Claus and an Elf will be there. Hot cocoa, donut holes and cookies will be served. It will end with caroling at Riverview Apartments.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

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

NEW BUSINESS:

- A motion was made by Linda Kashner, 2nd by Linda Neyer to have the Borough Solicitor amend Ordinance 101, Part 1, Alcoholic Beverages to say you cannot possess an open container of alcohol off of your property within the Borough. Attorney Anthony McDonald will draft and advertise the amendment for the December 11th Council Meeting. All Aye
- After a brief discussion a motion was made by Linda Kashner, 2nd by Barb Reese to approve Resolution 2017-11, Elimination of the (PPAC) Purchase Power Adjustment Clause starting with November billing. All Aye
- A motion was made by Barb Reese, 2nd by Doug Krum to approve Resolution 2017-10, Procedure for Destruction of Public Meeting Audio and/or Video Tapes once the minutes are approved. Gary Steinruck Nay, All others Aye
- A motion was made by Barb Reese, 2nd by Linda Kashner to select April 14th, 2018 for Dumpster Day. April 21st, 2018 was chosen as a 2nd choice in case dumpsters were not available for April 14th. All Aye
- A motion for a discussion was made by Doug Krum, 2nd by Joe Benware to prohibit seized vehicles from being stored in the Borough. After a brief discussion with Chief Laidacker and Attorney Anthony McDonald the matter will be left as is. The motions were withdrawn.
- A motion was made by Linda Neyer, 2nd by Linda Kashner for discussion regarding vehicle parking ticket regulations. After Chief Laidacker gave an explanation on the Ordinance regarding parking tickets the motion was withdrawn and the parking regulation Ordinance stays the same.
- A motion was made for discussion by Doug Krum, 2nd by Jay Roberts on the parking situation at 4th Street across from Patty Hess's residence by the fire hall. Currently there has been a vehicle parking so close to the corner you cannot see oncoming traffic. Guest Harold Kitchen let the Council know with the current parking situation, it is practically impossible to get the fire truck around that corner. After a brief discussion a motion was made by Jay Roberts, 2nd by Linda Kashner to paint the curb yellow for no parking at that corner. All Aye
- A motion was made by Linda Neyer, 2nd by Joe Benware to have a discussion regarding mailing a Crime Watch Brochure with the December 2017 utility bill. All Aye

- A motion was made by Linda Kashner, 2nd Jay Roberts to appoint Borough Manager Fred Hess as the Borough Code Enforcement Officer. Guest Patty Hess questioned how the Borough Manager would have the time on top of his manager's position to do the code enforcement job. A motion was made by Doug Krum, 2nd by Linda Neyer to have Fred Hess do the Code Enforcement position with a compensation of \$100.00 per week. A roll call vote was taken. Gary Steinruck, Nay; Linda Neyer, Aye; Jay Roberts, Nay; Doug Krum, Aye; Joe Benware, Aye; Linda Kasher, Nay; Barb Reese, Nay. Motion did not carry.
- A motion was made by Linda Kashner, 2nd by Barb Reese to make Borough Manger Fred Hess Code Enforcement Officer with no additional compensation. A roll call vote was taken. Gary Steinruck, Aye; Linda Neyer, Nay; Jay Roberts, Aye; Doug Krum, Nay; Joe Benware, Nay; Linda Kashner, Aye; Barb Reese, Aye. Motion Carries.
- A motion was made by Linda Kashner, 2nd by Barb Reese to make Fred Hess's Code Enforcement position a (6) month trial period with no compensation starting on November 14th 2017. A roll call vote was taken. Gary Steinruck, Aye; Linda Neyer, Nay; Jay Roberts, Aye; Doug Krum, Nay; Joe Benware, Nay; Linda Kashner, Aye; Barb Reese Aye. Motion Carries
- A motion was made by Barb Reese, 2nd by Doug Krum to discuss the usage, policies and user fees for the Community Center. Sample policies were handed out to Council Members. They were asked to come back next month with ideas for a policy for our Community Center to start in January.
- A motion to prepare an ordinance regarding limiting the parking to the west side of East Main Street was tabled until next month.

Council went into an Executive Session from 7:35 p.m. – 7:39 p.m.

- A motion was made by Linda Neyer, 2nd by Gary Steinruck to deny the grievance filed against the Catawissa Borough by Crystal Stoker. A roll call vote was taken. Gary Steinruck, Aye; Linda Neyer, Aye; Jay Roberts, Aye; Doug Krum, Aye; Joe Benware, Nay; Linda Kashner, Aye; Barb Reese Aye. Motion Carries.
- A motion was made by Linda Neyer, 2nd by Barb Reese to deny the grievance filed against the Catawissa Borough by Harry Young. A roll call vote was taken. All Aye
- A motion was made by Linda Kashner, 2nd by Doug Krum to approve the purchase of (12) \$25.00 Gift Cards for all Full-time Borough Employees with money from the Eyer Fund. All Aye
- A motion was made by Joe Benware, 2nd by Linda Neyer to donate (10) \$10.00 Gift Cards to the Catawissa Senior Center for their Christmas Program. All Aye
- The drafting of an ordinance regarding outdoor Fire Pits and/or Chimineas was tabled until more research can be done
- A motion was made by Linda Kashner, 2nd by Joe Benware to "write off" account# 034-03 in the amount of \$272.46. After a discussion "writing off" account# 317-08 in the amount of \$1222.44 is tabled until more research how to sheriff sale personal property is done. All Aye
- A motion was made by Barb Reese, 2nd by Jay Roberts to approve the 2018 Tentative Budget. A roll call vote was taken. Gary Steinruck, Aye; Linda Neyer, Nay; Jay Roberts, Aye; Doug Krum, Aye; Joe Benware, Nay; Linda Kashner, Aye; Barb Reese Aye. Motion Carries
- Police Chief Laidacker brought before Council that parking tickets will need to be purchased. Council told Chief Laidacker that he can get with Borough Manager Fred Hess to make that purchase.
- A motion was made by Barb Reese, 2nd by Linda Kashner to accept the quote from Miller's Cleaning Service in the amount of \$430.00 to clean the Community Center. All Aye
- A motion was made by Linda Kashner, 2nd by Barb Reese to transfer \$5000.00 from the Eyer Fund to the Community Center Fund to pay outstanding invoices. All Aye

FINANCE PAYMENT OF BILLS:

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

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Harold Kitchen thanked Linda Kashner for reading the profits along with losses from the PPAC. Harold talked about garbage trucks and recycling trucks coming in at 3am. Harold also asked about having controlled burns on Ferry Road when there is a "No Burn Ordinance" in the Borough. Council President Gary Steinruck stated we would look into it.

ADJOURNMENT:

- Motion to adjourn made by Doug Krum, 2nd by Jay Roberts. All Aye

MEETING ADJOURNED.

Submitted by:
Connie M. Cole
Secretary