

CATAWISSA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY December 10, 2018 – 6:30 P.M.

Executive Session took place before regular meeting at 5:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER:

- The meeting was called to order by Council President Doug Krum.
- The pledge of allegiance was recited.

ROLL CALL:

- Present were: Doug Krum, Gary Steinruck, Roy Klinger, Patty Hess, AJ McKenney, Linda Kashner, Barbara Reese, Mayor Tim Benner, Attorney Anthony McDonald.

READING OF MINUTES:

- A motion was made by Barbara Reese, 2nd by Roy Klinger to dispense reading of and approve minutes of the previous month's meeting. All Aye

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Guests Paul Caputo, Super Intendent and Mike Yeager, School Board President of Southern Columbia School District thanked the Borough of Catawissa for all they do for the community. Mr. Caputo also thanked Chief Laidacker for help with the safe school efforts with the emergency planning, drills and walk throughs. Mr. Caputo and Mr. Yeager thanked the borough for their efforts of keeping the roads clear for buses to transport the students safely and the fire department for helping out with different events.
- Mayor Tim Benner asked Mr. Caputo and Mr. Yeager if the Football Team is going to drive through Elysburg if they could please not forget to come through Catawissa.
- Guest Kevin Ferris asked council, on behalf of Terry Hartman of 507 North Street, to vacate a 10 foot piece of property that is a paper alley between his property and 515 North Street. Attorney Anthony McDonald stated the borough does not own said paper alley. Attorney Anthony McDonald advised Mr. Ferris on the steps he needs to take to move forward.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Secretary Connie Cole reported the following:
- 1st Columbia Bank & Trust rate increase for credit card processing is starting with December 2018 statement.
- Training Course for Incident Command System for Executives and Senior Officials (ICS-402) will be held on January 15, 2019 from 6-9 p.m. at the Espy Fire Department 300 Tenny Street Bloomsburg, PA 17815.

MAYOR:

- Mayor Timothy Benner thanked Connie Cole, Borough Secretary, for doing a presentation and answering questions about Catawissa Borough Electric Bills at Riverview Apartments.
- Mayor Benner thanked Chief Josh Laidacker for coming to Riverview Apartments to introduce himself and for answering all the questions.
- Mayor Benner also reported the following:
- 51 people attended the Tree Lighting at Eyer Park with 35 of those people singing at Riverview Apartments and returning to the Catawissa Christian Church for refreshments.

- Thursday December 13, 2018 a proclamation will be presented to Mr. Stine for the Southern Columbia Girls Soccer Team Day. The Presentation will be at the back stage in the Cracker Barrel 340 Main Street Catawissa starting at 6 p.m. There will be cake, cupcakes and the trophy will be present to view.
- A request for a thank you letter was given by Mayor Benner to be sent to Woody Heaps for donating the Christmas Float.

MANAGER REPORT:

WATER:

- Water Authority Superintendent, Cindy Bachman thanked the borough for the labor donation for the installation of the 3rd power lines that were added to the Water Authority's two locations.
- Ms. Bachman reported the Water Authority will be doing the South 3rd Street water main replacement from South Street towards Creek Rd about 360 ft. The project will start this coming summer.
- Ms. Bachman stated she presented a list earlier for the next (5) years of projects that are planned. If the borough plans on doing anything with the streets please give the Water Authority a heads up in case there is something they want to do first.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:

- Council President, Doug Krum stated the detailed Code Enforcement Report for the month of November was included in Council's packet.

POLICE:

- Police Chief Joshua Laidacker read the monthly report which stated during the month of November, 2018 the department responded to (206) calls for service, as reported by the Columbia County Communications Center. Chief Laidacker also reported the following:
 - The SUV remains out of regular service due to safety concerns.
 - The order was placed for the new SUV, and should be ready mid-December. Payment will be required mid-January.
 - New Holland Motors has given \$4,000.00 for the trade in of the current SUV.
 - Final authorization was received for the 2018 JAG Grant, which details the amount of the grant to Catawissa Borough as \$13,371.00 towards the in-car computers and other related equipment.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

- Committee Chairperson Doug Krum reported the committee has not met in a while. The Committee is working on a Fireworks Ordinance and are hoping to meet again before January's Council Meeting.

UTILITIES:

- Committee Chairperson, Linda Kashner read the totals for outstanding utility accounts.
- Committee Chairperson Linda Kashner reported there were (8) limiters placed, (4) were removed by end of day.
- Ms. Kashner stated Connie Cole is doing a good job keeping track of the past due electric accounts.

PARKS RECREATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

- Committee Chairperson Barbara Reese reported the Committee will be meeting in January to start planning events for 2019.

PROPERTY & BUILDING MAINTENANCE:

- Committee Chairperson Gary Steinruck reported there seemed to be only (1) painter interested in doing some repair work at the Community Center. Mr. Steinruck is hoping to have more by the next meeting.
- Committee Chairperson Gary Steinruck reported the sewer truck is at Bradco and a definite completion date was not given. If the Borough needs a truck after December Bradco may have something the Borough can borrow.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION:

- Committee Chairperson Linda Kashner reported a CD is coming due on December 11, 2018. Ms. Kashner read quotes on rates from 1st Columbia Bank & Trust 2.2% for 2 years, 2.5% for 3 years and 1st Keystone .75% for 2 years and 1.44% for 3 years. A motion was made by Barbara Reese, 2nd by Patsy Hess for 2.2% for 2 years with 1st Columbia Bank & Trust. All Aye
- Committee Chairperson Linda Kashner read account balances.
- Ms. Kashner reported she will meet with Nancy Yost, Treasurer at the end of the month to go over the FEMA mistake money. This money was paid to a person who received insurance money when they were not entitled. Ms. Kashner would like the \$6,000.00 to be transferred to the Capital Fund.
- Ms. Kashner reported the Sewer Fund probably will have funds available at the end of year to transfer to Capital Fund. The money can be used for all streets or ½ can go for a truck and ½ for streets. Council President Doug Krum asked if the decision of what the money is used for can be made next month. Ms. Kashner replied yes as long as the money is transferred this month.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:

- Committee Chairperson Doug Krum reported the Committee talked about contracts.

UNION:

- Committee Chairperson Doug Krum reported the Committee is still in negotiation with Chief Laidacker.
- Committee Chairperson Doug Krum reported the Committee is on hold with the Uniform negotiations.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- A motion was made by Gary Steinruck, 2nd by Patsy Hess to discuss Dempsey Uniforms. Attorney Anthony McDonald explained what the Borough will need to do to try to get out of the contract. A written notice must be given to Dempsey stating the issues and sent by certified mail. Dempsey then has 30 days to correct the issues. Council President Doug Krum stated this was already done by Borough Treasurer Nancy Yost. Attorney Anthony McDonald asked if Dempsey has responded or cured the problems. Council President Doug Krum replied he wasn't sure and (2) issues won't be solved because Harry Young does not like the fit of the pants and Dempsey does not supply women's clothing so nothing will fit Crystal Stoker right. Attorney McDonald asked if the first letter was specific in stating each problem and if so then did Dempsey cure the problems within (30) days of receipt of the letter. If they did not then you can break the agreement by further written notice. Attorney McDonald suggested if the Borough would like to buy out the contract make sure you get a written release before you pay to get out of the contract.

- A motion was made by Barbara Reese, 2nd by Gary Steinruck to discuss Penn Strategies. Attorney Anthony McDonald stated he looked at the contract and found nothing wrong with it. The Borough must enter into a 12 month contract but there is an out clause in the contract with 60 day notice. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Barbara Reese, 2nd by AJ McKenney to enter into a 12 month contract with Penn Strategies starting in January. All Aye
Councilwoman Linda Kashner stated the money can come out of the money that will be transferred over to Capital Fund.
- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by AJ McKenney to discuss a 2nd Sewer Plant Operator. Council President Doug Krum explained it is to have a backup operator not hire a 2nd operator. More information was needed from John Bauer so the matter was tabled until next month.
- A motion was made by Gary Steinruck, 2nd by Patsy Hess to discuss discounted permit fees. After a brief discussion the matter was tabled until next month so a list of current fees can be provided.
- Councilwoman Linda Kashner asked about the rental ordinance that was tabled. Attorney Anthony McDonald suggested start by assigning a committee to gather rental ordinances from other municipalities and come up with a plan for next month's meeting to take a look at.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A motion was made by Gary Steinruck, 2nd by Barbara Reese to approve the 2019 Budget. All Aye
- A motion was made by AJ McKenney, 2nd by Roy Klinger to advertise the 2019 Meeting Dates. All Aye
- A motion was made by Linda Kashner, 2nd by Gary Steinruck to approve Ordinance 2018-03 regarding 2019 Tax Rate. All Aye
Councilwoman Linda Kashner stated there is no tax increase.
- A motion was made by Gary Steinruck, 2nd Barbara Reese to approve Resolution 2018-07 regarding Electric Service Billing Policy. All Aye
- A motion was made by Barbara Reese, 2nd Roy Klinger to discuss a contract with Service Electric for Dumpster Cameras. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Barbara Reese, 2nd by Roy Klinger to purchase the lowest possible 3 year plan for what is needed for the cameras at the recycling location with its own static IP address. All Aye
- Councilwoman Linda Kashner asked if we were purchasing our own router & modem or were we renting. Ms. Kashner feels the borough should purchase their own. Chief Laidacker is going to reach out to Kinn Computers to get a quote on a router & modem.
- Councilwoman Barbara Reese expressed her concerns with needing more signage on the recycling dumpsters. Ms. Reese feels a no cardboard sign needs to go on the appropriate dumpster, cardboard only on the cardboard dumpster and an absolutely no Garbage sign posted on both. Mayor Tim Benner suggested calling Fought's Disposal to see if they will provide the signage for no extra cost.
- A motion was made by Gary Steinruck, 2nd by AJ McKenney to appoint Siana, Bellwoar as Borough Labor Attorneys for 2019. All Aye
- A motion was made by Barbara Reese, 2nd by Gary Steinruck to appoint Gene Powlus as Borough Sewage Enforcement Officer for 2019. All Aye
- A motion was made by Gary Steinruck, 2nd by Linda Kashner to discuss Larson Design Group's expiring contract. Attorney Anthony McDonald suggested just appointing Larson in January. They are a professional service and the Borough does not need to sign a contract. After the discussion, Larson Design Group was appointed as the Borough Engineer for 2019. All Aye
- A motion was made by Linda Kashner, 2nd by Barbara Reese to discuss the fee for the Zoning Hearing Board Meeting. After a brief discussion a motion was made by Linda Kashner, 2nd by

Barbara Reese to raise the Zoning Hearing Board Meeting fee to \$800.00 and if all funds are not used a refund will be issued. All Aye

Attorney Anthony McDonald made a suggestion that if an appeal is filed then no refund is given. Attorney McDonald advised that the borough wait 30 days to do a refund because they have 30 days to file an appeal.

- A motion was made by AJ McKenney, 2nd by Roy Klinger to discuss the purchasing of the computer equipment for the Police Vehicles and reimbursement from the JAG Grant. Chief Laidacker explained he had been working with someone from the grant office and the funds are available for the borough. The equipment must be purchased first and the receipts turned in before the funds will be released. Councilwoman Linda Kashner expressed she just did not want the equipment purchased before January due to the budget.

FINANCE PAYMENT OF BILLS:

- A motion to accept payment of bills as written was made by Patsy Hess, 2nd by Barbara Reese. All Aye

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Councilwoman Linda Kashner inquired if anyone spoke to Mr. Frace about more hours. Council President Doug Krum said yes he had spoken with Mr. Frace. Mr. Frace will be working in the Borough Office from 8 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Thursdays. Councilwoman Linda Kashner expressed her concern with Mr. Frace not having enough time to devote to the Borough. Council President Doug Krum stated he had Borough Secretary Connie Cole place an ad on our website for a Part-Time Code Enforcement Officer. Attorney Anthony McDonald suggested calling Barry Issett and Associates out of Hazelton for Code Enforcement. Council President Doug Krum stated he would give them a call.
- Councilwoman Barbara Reese asked if we got any inquiries for the Emergency Management. Council President Doug Krum replied no.
- Councilwoman Linda Kashner asked if anyone showed interest in the Zoning Hearing Board Vacancy. Council President Doug Krum replied no.
- Councilwoman Barbara Reese asked if anyone seen the municipality that just had an Electronic Recycling Day. No one knew who it was. Ms. Reese suggested we find out who it was and inquire who they went through to do the recycling.

ADJORNMENT:

- A motion was made by Gary Steinruck, 2nd by AJ McKenney to adjourn. All Aye

MEETING ADJORNED

Submitted by:

Connie M. Cole
Borough Secretary