

CATAWISSA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY January 7, 2019 – 6:30 P.M.

Executive Session took place before regular meeting at 5:45 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
- Absent: Attorney Anthony McDonald.

READING OF MINUTES:

- A motion was made by Linda Kashner, 2nd by AJ McKenney to dispense reading of and approve minutes of the previous month's meeting. All Aye

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Council President Doug Krum said he would like guest Harry Young to speak about a FR winter coat Chase Petty put in for. Mr. Young stated Chase Petty and Nancy Yost checked on Amazon and the coat Chase submitted for was the cheapest they could find.
- Guest Harry Young expressed his concerns about the Electric Truck being a 2002 and using it for plowing. Mr. Young feels Council should consider replacing the truck.
- Guest Harry Young made Council aware of the schooling Chase Petty should attend. The schooling is through REA, in March is meter school and in September is underground school.
- Guest Becky Schlieder expressed her concerns with Walt Gosciminski burning at his property and fumes were coming into the Riverview Apartments. Ms. Shlieder stated residents and herself were having a hard time breathing the smoke and fumes were that bad. Ms. Schlieder stated this is not the first time Mr. Gosciminski has done this and she would like to see something done about it. Mayor Tim Benner stated he sat in his car and watched billowing black smoke come from the site of Mr. Gosciminski's burning. Mayor Benner stated he was going to talk to the fire company and Officer Hayes to see what was being burned. Council President Doug Krum said the matter will be looked into. Chief Laidacker asked Ms. Schlieder to please call the Police if this happens again.
- Guest Becky Schlieder also expressed her concerns with what The Bottling Works burns there. Chief Laidacker asked if Ms. Shlieder sees this happen again please call the police.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Secretary Connie Cole reported the following:
- The fees regarding color copies for Right to Know Documents increased to \$.50 per copy. A motion was made by Linda Kashner, 2nd by Barbara Reese to increase color copies for Right to Know Documents to \$.50. All Aye
- West Shore Advanced Life Support Services will be doing business as Geisinger Emergency Medical Services.
- A thank you card was sent to Ron Long for the Christmas tree.

MAYOR:

- Mayor Timothy Benner reported:
- The Borough will be participating in School Choice Week Proclamation.
- A Proclamation for the Southern Columbia Tigers Football Team winning the State Championship will be presented on Sunday January 20, 2019 at the Cracker Barrel on Main St. at 5 p.m.

MANAGER REPORT: N/A

WATER:

- Water Authority Superintendent had nothing to report.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:

- Council President, Doug Krum read the report for the month of October which stated the following: (1) investigation, (6) letters, (1) door hanger, (0) verbal warnings, (0) permits, (0) citations were issued and had (0) days in court.
- Councilwoman Barb Reese read an email from Kay Huber concerning her mother's neighbor's yard filled with dog excrement. Ms. Huber wants to know what it will take to have her neighbor's keep their yard cleaned up. Councilwoman Barbara Reese and Councilwoman Linda Kashner feel Code Enforcement Officer Larry Frace needs to do more. Ms. Reese stated according to the ordinance the dog excrement should be cleaned up in 24 hours. Council President Doug Krum read a note he received that Larry Frace was aware of the issue and is taking the necessary steps.

POLICE:

- Police Chief Joshua Laidacker read the monthly report which stated during the month of December, 2018 the department responded to (208) calls for service, as reported by the Columbia County Communications Center. Chief Laidacker also reported the following:
- The 2019 SUV arrived on January 3rd.
- The 2010 SUV was sold to New Holland Motors.
- The computers from the JAG Grant are in, and will be installed within the next few weeks.
- The cameras at the Recycling Center are operational, and have resulted in citations. The department is investigating an incident of scattering rubbish from the 26th of December. The cameras have aided in the identification of four persons responsible. It is requested that the Council consider a recycling ordinance in addition to state law to assist in prosecution.
- Based upon the effectiveness of this camera system, the department requests that the Council consider additional cameras in trouble areas in the Borough.
- Personnel was discussed at the executive session.
- A brief discussion about citing violators of the recycling procedures ensued, after the discussion a motion was made by Barb Reese, 2nd by Patsy Hess to prepare a Recycling Ordinance.
- Councilwoman Linda Kashner asked if access was set up for the Borough Office to view the recycling cameras. Chief Laidacker was not aware the software was not set up yet. Chief Laidacker will contact ICU for the Borough Office to be set up to watch the cameras.
- Councilwoman Linda Kashner presented photos of damage to the fence around the recycling dumpsters. Council President Doug Krum stated he will contact Fought's Disposal about the damage. Guest Harold Kitchen requested Mr. Krum speak to Fought's Disposal about the speed Fought's travel on South 4th Street and to remind them of a stop sign at 4th and Shuman Streets.

- Councilwoman Barb Reese asked if everyone seen the pictures of the signs she took of the Orangeville recycling site. After a brief discussion, council agreed to hold off on new signs until a recycling ordinance is drafted.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

- Committee Chairperson Doug Krum reported the committee had a meeting and talked about the letter from the Fire Company concerning a generator. The Committee is not ready to bring it to Council yet.
- The Committee is also working on a firework ordinance.
- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by AJ McKenney to hire Paul Allen as the Emergency Management Coordinator. All Aye

UTILITIES:

- Committee Chairperson Linda Kashner read the totals for outstanding utility accounts.
- Committee Chairperson Linda Kashner reported there were (48) electric door hangers and (17) sewer door hangers placed, (1) limiter is still on.

PARKS RECREATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

- Committee Chairperson Barbara Reese reported the Committee will be meeting on Friday January 11, 2019 to start planning for the year.

PROPERTY & BUILDING MAINTENANCE:

- Committee Chairperson Gary Steinruck reported the borough should have the new Sewer Truck sometime this week.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION:

- Committee Chairperson Linda Kashner stated the borough is starting the 2019 budget and asked each department to keep their expenses to the minimum.
- Committee Chairperson Linda Kashner reported transfers were made from electric and sewer accounts to capital fund.
- Councilwoman Barb Reese asked about the rental ordinance that was discussed last month. Councilman Gary Steinruck stated the committee is collecting ordinances from surrounding municipalities that are comparable to Catawissa Borough to look at.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:

- Committee Chairperson Doug Krum reported a meeting was held with the labor attorney to get the labor contract settled with the Police Union. An agreement was not met.

UNION:

- Committee Chairperson Doug Krum reported the same as what was stated under the Personnel Committee.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- A motion was made by Gary Steinruck, 2nd by Patsy Hess to discuss John Bauer's cost to do Sewer Plant Reporting. After a brief discussion this matter was tabled until next month to get pricing from other sources.
- A motion was made by Gary Steinruck, 2nd by Linda Kashner to discuss discounting permit fees. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Barbara Reese, 2nd by Linda Kashner to give a 50% discount on zoning permits for projects costing from \$10,001.00 to \$100,000.00 and permits from \$100,001.00 and over, for residents 62 and over plus veterans. Both must reside in

the borough for at least (1) year. Seniors must provide proof of age and veterans must provide a valid military ID or a DD214 as proof of service.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A motion was made by Barbara Reese, 2nd by Linda Kashner to discuss electric bills when a limiter is on the meter. Councilwoman Linda Kashner explained a situation where a limiter was on an electric meter and the resident ran the bill up over \$500.00. Ms. Kashner explained a customer could run the bill up to \$2000.00 then leave. A motion was made by Linda Kashner, 2nd by Barbara Reese for electric bills with a limiter on the meter must not exceed \$500.00 or electric service will be terminated. All Aye
- A motion was made by Barabara Reese, 2nd by AJ McKenney to approve Resolution 2019-01 regarding Zoning Hearing Board Meeting Fees. All Aye
- A motion was made by Patsy Hess, 2nd by Gary Steinruck to approve the 2019 Lease for the Senior Center with a 3% increase. All Aye
- A motion was made by AJ McKenney, 2nd Roy Klinger to discuss approving the current or increased coverage for Wright Insurance policy for the sewer plant. A motion was made by Barbara Reese, 2nd by Roy Klinger to approve the increased coverage on the Wright Insurance Policy for the Sewer Plant and Generator Building. All Aye
- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd AJ McKenney to approve the Boot Drive for the Catawissa Hose Company being held on May 24, 2019 from 8:00 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Main & N. 4th Streets. All Aye
- A motion was made by AJ McKenney, 2nd by Roy Klinger to appoint Terry Adams as a member of The Water Authority Board for a 5 year term. All Aye
- A motion was made by Patsy Hess, 2nd by Barbara Reese to discuss an ordinance for recycling. Council had already discussed having an ordinance drafted by Attorney Athony McDonald for next month's council meeting.
- A motion was made by Barbara Reese, 2nd by AJ McKenney to discuss a cement pad for the recycling dumpsters. Council President Doug Krum stated this was discussed with Jason Fitzgerald from Penn Strategies. Councilman Gary Steinruck listed the projects that the Borough is interested in Penn Strategies looking for grants for. Councilman AJ McKenney mentioned the Stakeholders Advisory Committee. Council President Doug Krum wanted to know if information about the committee was on the borough's website. Secretary Connie Cole replied yes.
- A motion was made by Patsy Hess, 2nd by AJ McKenney to discuss an ordinance regarding fireworks. After a brief discussion Councilwoman Linda Kashner felt it was a good idea to put something in the Southside Beat about the new state laws regarding fireworks and Catawissa Borough is going to follow these laws and if you decide to not follow the laws you could be subject to be under arrest. Mayor Tim Benner suggested for the same to be placed on the borough's website. Council President Doug Krum is supposed to print the state law and make sure council members receive a copy for next meeting.
- Guest Sharon Krum stated her concerns with fireworks that were set off last year. Mayor Tim Benner told Ms. Krum if it happens again please call the police and they will follow the state law.

FINANCE PAYMENT OF BILLS:

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

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Councilwoman Linda Kashner asked where the borough is at with the Dempsey contract. Council President Doug Krum stated Attorney Anthony McDonald has it.
- Councilwoman Linda Kashner asked if council has thought about hiring a part time seasonal worker for spring. It was agreed by Council to start working on looking for someone. It was suggested to look into Bloomsburg University Internship. Secretary Connie Cole was asked to call the Student Work Study Program about the seasonal part-time position.
- Councilwoman Linda Kashner stated her concerns with the applications coming in for part-time manager have not been good. Ms. Kashner suggested bringing down the position to Executive Assistant and the position being full-time. If the candidate works out and looks like they are doing a good job they can be promoted to Borough Manager. After a brief discussion the Personnel Committee decided to look at applications before any decisions are made.

ADJORNMENT:

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

MEETING ADJORNED

Submitted by:

Connie M. Cole
Borough Secretary