

**CATAWISSA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY July 8, 2019**

An Executive Session was held before the regular council meeting at 6:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER:

- The meeting was called to order by Council President, Doug Krum.
- The pledge of allegiance was recited.
- A moment of silence was taken in Honor & Remembrance of Fire Chief Donald Traugh.

ROLL CALL:

- Present were: Larry Kopp, Doug Krum, Gary Steinruck, AJ McKenney, Victoria Waugh, Roy Klinger, Patsy Hess, Barbara Reese, Mayor Tim Benner, Attorney Anthony McDonald.

READING OF MINUTES:

- Council President Doug Krum read a letter from Councilman Gary Steinruck requesting the section of June 2019 meeting minutes where Council President Doug Krum read minutes from Feb 2018 regarding Councilwoman Patsy Hess and Hiring of a Full-Time Officer from the motion to the vote in verbatim. A motion was made by Gary Steinruck, 2nd by Patsy Hess to grant the June 2019 verbatim minutes request. After a brief discussion Council Vice President Gary Steinruck and Councilwoman Patsy Hess withdrew the motion.
- A motion was made by Barbara Reese, 2nd by AJ McKenney to dispense reading of and approve minutes of the previous month's meeting. All Aye

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Guest Harold Kitchen expressed his concerns with the condition of the house next his property. Mr. Kitchen also mentioned the property located by Dollar General as you come over the bridge into Catawissa looking like a junk yard.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Secretary Connie Cole had nothing to report.

MAYOR:

- Mayor Tim Benner reported Officer Gallie and Officer Kistner responded to a scene with an unresponsive person/possible overdose. Officers began life-saving CPR efforts and also administered two doses of Narcan. The victim was revived and regained consciousness. Mayor Benner ask for a motion for Officer Gallie and Officer Kistner to receive "Life Saving Commendations". A motion was made by Barbara Reese, 2nd by Roy Klinger for Officer Gallie and Officer Kister to receive the Letters of Commendation.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

- Borough Manager Larry Kopp reported the following:
- Meetings, classes & conferences that were attended in June.
- Upcoming meetings/classes that are scheduled for July.
- A letter of Interest was submitted to PA Council on the Arts Creative Community Initiative for a grant.
- The Letter of Interest was approved and a grant application is being submitted to Central Susquehanna Community Foundation. The application is due July 10th.
- Mr. Kopp is working on USDA Community Facilities Grant.
- A Recommendation was given for holding monthly Committee Meetings to more effectively run Catawissa Borough

- FEMA's community coordination meeting for Flood Insurance & Rate Map is July 10th.
- The Quaker Meeting House Project has been approved. Waiting on County Redevelopment Authority when we can solicit bids and begin work on the project.
- Stakeholder's Advisory Committee Meeting is Monday July 15th.
- The first issue of quarterly newsletter is planned for Fall 2019.
- Waiting on County Redevelopment Authority for the Community Research and Consulting to do a borough wide survey to contest the results of the DCED Summary Data for Municipality.
- Ken Stauffer was contacted that the Borough would accept his donation of the Railroad Clock from the Catawissa Station. Mr. Stauffer will contact the Borough when he makes a decision on who he is going to donate the clock to.
- Mr. Kopp met with the Finance Committee to go over the capital projects and got estimate costs. It is time to think about putting them in the budget for next year and looking for funding for next year.

WATER:

- Water Authority Superintendent Cindy Bachman had nothing to report.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:

- Council President Doug Krum read the Code Enforcement Report: (3) issues were investigated, (18) letters were sent, (5) door hangers, (1) verbal warning, (5) permits, (7) citations were issued and (0) days were spent in court.

POLICE:

- Police Chief Joshua Laidacker read his monthly report which stated the following:
- During the month of June 2019, the department responded to (226) calls for service.
- Security panels and window glaze were installed on Car #2.
- A copy of an email from Chief Bill Richendrfer was provided regarding the prices for the new portable and mobile radios. This pricing is for Motorola radios through Keystone Communication. This vendor was chosen to receive the state pricing. Chief Laidacker expressed the department would need (2) portable and (2) mobile radios. Chief asked if anyone had any ideas for grants or possibly including something in the next year's budget.
- The final step for the JAG Grant from last year is complete. In the month of June, the department went live on TraCS. All traffic citations are now completed electronically.
- The computers in the cars helped the department apprehend (6) wanted persons just based upon the photos we seen on the computers. These were people that had outstanding warrants.
- Officer Kistner has been placed into the schedule rotation.
- The department still needs part-time help for holidays and weekends.
- Officer Gallie completed the noncompetitive test for the Civil Service as recommended by the Civil Service Commission.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

- Committee Chairperson Doug Krum had nothing to report.

UTILITIES:

- Committee Chairperson Gary Steinruck reported there were (53) electric and (24) sewer doorhangers were placed.
- Committee Chairperson Gary Steinruck read the totals for outstanding utility accounts.

PARKS & RECREATION/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

- Committee Chairperson Barbara Reese reported the following:
- Next meeting will be July 12th at 11 a.m.
- Thanked everyone for the help with Kids Day

- Joe Stanky & The Cadets were booked for July 23rd Summer Breeze Series.
- July 9th Ave E is playing for Summer Breeze.
- Catawissa Dreaming will be providing refreshments for the remainder of the Summer Breeze.
- Senior Day has been moved to Friday August 2nd and will be held at The Catawissa Christian Church.
- Catawissa Dreaming is scheduled to open the Quaker Meeting House on Sunday July 21st.

PROPERTY & BUILDING MAINTENANCE:

- Committee Chairperson Gary Steinruck had nothing to report.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION:

- Committee Chairperson Doug Krum read the balances for general, electric and sewer fund.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:

- Nothing to Report.

UNION:

- Committee Chairperson Doug Krum reported negotiations started with the non-uniform union.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by AJ McKenney to approve the purchase of (2) more transformers for an extra \$300.00. All Aye
Guest Harry Young stated he would be working on replacing a utility pole behind Cracker Barrel on July 9th. The pole was hit over the previous weekend. The power will be out 6 to 8 hours. Mr. Young also stated the Borough may need to purchase (3) more 12208 bank transformers for the new VFW. He will know after Thursday July 11th meeting.
- A motion was made by Barbara Reese, 2nd by Patsy Hess to discuss a Code Enforcement Officer. A motion was made by Barbara Reese, 2nd Patsy Hess to advertise for a part-time Code Enforcement Officer for up to 32 hours per week, will train the right person and pay is negotiable. All Aye
- A motion was made by Barbara Reese, 2nd by Gary Steinruck to discuss maintenance tombstone repair and retaining wall repair at Greenwood Cemetery. A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by Barbara Reese to reject the (3) bids for the tombstone repair at Greenwood Cemetery. All Aye
A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by Patsy Hess allowing Larson Design \$5000.00 to give a specific bid spec together for the tombstone repair at Greenwood Cemetery. All Aye
- A motion was made by Barbara Reese, 2nd by Gary Steinruck to accept the bid from Dolittle Construction for the repair of the retaining wall at Greenwood/Quaker Cemeteries in the amount for \$14,420.00 which will be paid from the Eyer Fund. All Aye

NEW BUSINESS

- A motion was made by Barbara Reese, 2nd by Gary Steinruck to discuss repairing Kline Avenue Aqueduct deterioration. A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by Gary Steinruck to get phone bids for the repair of the Kline Avenue Aqueduct. All Aye
- A motion by Barbara Reese, 2nd by Patsy Hess to unseal bids for repairing water damage at the Senior/Community Center. Council Vice President Gary Steinruck opened the following bids: Spotts Brothers \$7200 for Senior Center, \$4150 for Community Center, Re-grout outside repair areas \$27,140; OTC Custom Contractors/ Ontrack Construction Senior Center \$4,189, Community Center \$3,076, Re-grout outside repair areas \$4,923; H & P Construction Inc. Senior Center \$11, 500, Community Center \$10,125, Re-grout outside repair areas \$8970, Roof extension to rear corner \$4350, Cement gutters at rear of building \$4595. A motion was made by Gary Steinruck, 2nd by Roy Klinger to table the matter for the committee and manager time to look the bids over. All Aye

- A motion was made by Gary Steinruck, 2nd by AJ McKenney to approve street improvements on Grove Avenue to aid storm runoff. The improvement will be done with a black top curb and a high velocity storm drain. 5 Aye; Victoria Waugh, Patsy Hess Nay
Guest Harold Kitchen expressed his feelings on how the Council is worried about people on Grove Avenue, but not the people on 4th Street.
- A motion was made by Barbara Reese, 2nd by Patsy Hess to donate \$1000 to Catawissa Hose Company. All Aye
- A motion was made by Gary Steinruck, 2nd by Barbara Reese to approve Catawissa Borough participate in AMP's R.I.C.E Peak Shaving Project. All Aye
- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by AJ McKenney to approve the purchase of (1) pump at \$4900.00 plus (3) hour meters at approximately \$150.00 each for the Sewer Plant. All Aye
- A motion was made by Gary Steinruck, 2nd by AJ McKenney to reinstate Jeff Achy to a 6-year term on the Civil Service Commission. All Aye

FINANCE PAYMENT OF BILLS

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

GUESTS TO BE HEARD

- Guest Cindy Bachman asked if the purchase price is just for the pump. Council Vice President Gary Steinruck replied the borough will install it. Ms. Bachman also inquired if the maintenance for generators used for the R.I.C.E. Project was charged on your monthly bill. Borough Manager Larry Kopp stated no; AMP takes care of the maintenance at no charge.
- Councilwoman Barbara Reese asked what happened to the flag on the bluff. Electric Superintendent Harry Young stated it was torn to shreds, measurements were taken for a new flag. Ms. Reese also asked if anything was being done with the old tattoo shop. Council President Doug Krum stated it was supposed to be torn down and he would speak to Larry Frace about it. Ms. Reese expressed her concerns with the garage out by Dollar General again and that something needs to be done about it. Ms. Reese made Council aware that Larry Frace was in the Borough doing an inspection on July 4th during the hours he was suppose to be working for the borough. Borough Manager Larry Kopp is supposed to look into the matter.
- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by Gary Steinruck to send (1) pump from the Sewer Plant back to get a quote on rebuilding it. All Aye
- Chief Josh Laidacker requested an amendment be done to the parking ordinance to state a vehicle not inspected or not registered can be ticketed. Borough Manager Larry Kopp was directed to call other Police Departments to see what they do for this situation.
- Attorney Anthony McDonald stated the Borough is done talking to the Railroad Company about a right away for our electric lines and will not pay them so to go away. Attorney McDonald stated if the Railroad Company wants to go before the Magistrate, he would be happy to do that.
- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by Victoria Waugh to close the Borough Offices for the day of Fire Chief Donald Traugh's funeral. All Aye

ADJOURNMENT:

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

MEETING ADJOURNED

Submitted by:

Connie M. Cole Borough Secretary