

**CATAWISSA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY October 7, 2019**

An Executive Session was held before the regular council meeting at 6 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: Larry Kopp, Doug Krum, Gary Steinruck, AJ McKenney, Roy Klinger, Patsy Hess, Barbara Reese, Victoria Waugh, Mayor Jeff Achy, Attorney Anthony McDonald.

READING OF MINUTES:

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

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Penn Strategies Representative Jason Fitzgerald read a report concerning the progress that was made thus far with Catawissa Borough regarding Grants and Economic Development.
- Guest Mike Gensemer with Building Inspection Underwriters of Pennsylvania gave a presentation on the services they provide and details on the terms of an agreement. After a question and answer session, a motion was made by Gary Steinruck, 2nd by Patsy Hess to approve Building Inspection Underwriters of Pennsylvania to provide construction inspections and plan review services for Catawissa Borough. All Aye
- Guest Cindy Bachman expressed her concerns with recycling going away. Ms. Bachman stated it is on Bloomsburg's agenda to look at what is going on in other municipalities. Ms. Bachman stated it is safe to say they will go to Bloomsburg Residents only. Ms. Bachman would like to suggest Council approaching Bloomsburg to see if they would accept Catawissa Borough Resident's recycling if Catawissa Borough offers to pay Bloomsburg for doing so. A discussion was had about providing a Borough Identification Card for residents to provide to Bloomsburg for recycling purposes. A motion was made by Gary Steinruck, 2nd by Roy Klinger to approve Manager Larry Kopp to contact Bloomsburg regarding accepting Catawissa Borough Residents recycling for \$450/month or less. All Aye

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Nothing to Report

MAYOR:

- Mayor Jeff Achy reported the car at a property on N. 3rd Street was towed. There is still a tree problem there and a problem out back that needs to get figured out. Code Enforcement Officer Randy Howell sent a letter to the property caretaker.
- Council Vice President Gary Steinruck stated he feels things are favorably enforced. There are the same issues at 715 Shuman St. & at the Bottling Works.

- On the corner of Quinn and Berger Ave. a bush is overgrown and people cannot see to pull out. Mayor Achy suggested doing a study to put a stop sign there.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

- Borough Manager Larry Kopp reported the following:
- Mr. Kopp has been working with Larson Design Group to get a plan together so two grant applications can be sent out to replace the failing piping and valves in the aeration tank at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.
- The FEMA Flood Insurance Study & Rate Map is ongoing. Notification letters have been sent out to residents in the floodplain in September. Mr. Kopp offered residents could contact him directly if they needed more information. The comment period from FEMA on the new FIRM is scheduled to begin sometime 2020.
- The monthly newsletter was sent out in September and some positive feedback was received. The next newsletter is scheduled to go out in November.
- The Senior Center and Community Center interior projects are completed. The Exterior trough is completed. The Exterior overhang roof is being worked on now.
- Mr. Kopp expressed that it is getting time to prepare for winter and the salt spreaders the Borough has right now need replaced. Streets Superintendent Crystal Stoker expressed the two spreaders are inefficient due to size and one being gas powered. Ms. Stoker explained a hydraulic spreader would be better suited for the borough due to not having to stop often to refuel, being bigger and able to hold more salt and made of stainless steel. Ms. Stoker stated the plan would be to trade the two old spreaders in for one hydraulic spreader. Borough Manager Larry Kopp stated the cost of a new spreader would be \$11, 589.00 with the trade in of the two older spreaders that would bring it down to \$9,000.00. Ms. Stoker stated \$9,000.00 was budgeted for a new mower but a mower is not needed so this money could be used for the spreader. A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by Victoria Waugh to trade in the old two spreaders for one hydraulic spreader. All Aye
- Councilwoman Barbara Reese asked when is the street sealing being done. Street Superintendent Crystal Stoker expressed she just took over the position and it is on the list and she will try to get it done in the next two weeks. Ms. Stoker stated they will need another pallet of tar. A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by Barbara Reese to purchase a pallet of tar. All Aye
- Mr. Kopp wanted to thank Ms. Stoker for doing a fantastic job and taking the initiative to get things done.
- Councilman Gary Steinruck asked if the pump that was purchased for the sewer plant was installed yet. Mr. Kopp stated no it is not.

WATER:

- Water Authority Superintendent Cindy Bachman reported the work on S. 3rd Street is complete and sealing will also be done.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:

- Council President Doug Krum read the code enforcement report.
- Council President Doug Krum reported a meeting was held with the people from the garage. The agreement is by November 8, 2019 (15) cars, gas tanks and three gas grills will be removed, all tires, debris and under the trailer will be cleaned up and weeds and grass cut. If this is not

completed on November 8th Mr. Hoover owner of the property will not renew the lease and get rid of all the cars.

POLICE:

- Police Chief Joshua Laidacker read his monthly report which stated the following:
- During the month of September 2019, the department responded to (161) calls for service.
- Car #1 was taken to Metzger for a recall part that needed replaced and scheduled maintenance.
- The Department is still in desperate need of Fire Police/Volunteers to assistance for the Halloween Parade on the 26th of October.
- The new weapons have arrived and the officers are in the process of training and certification.
- October 29th is our "Coffee with a Cop" event. It will be held between 8 a.m. and 10 am. at Woody's Place.
- Officer Gallie attended mandatory CLEAN/JNET training on the 17th of Sept.
- Officer Hayes attended MDIT training on the 24th of Sept.
- Manadatory updates continue.
- Officers Allen and Kinney continue on the road training.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

- Committee Chairperson Doug Krum reported there was no meeting held this month.

UTILITIES:

- Committee Chairperson Patsy Hess reported there were (54) electric and (23) sewer door hangers that were placed. (3) electric meters were pulled for non-payment in September and (1) remains off.
- Committee Chairperson Patsy Hess read the totals for outstanding utility accounts.

PARKS & RECREATION/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

- A motion was made by Barbara Reese, 2nd by Gary Steinruck to purchase (12) 4' x 8' acoustic panels for the Community Center at a cost of \$3,108.00. 6 Aye; Doug Krum, Nay
- A motion was made by Gary Steinruck, 2nd by Barbara Reese to approve event calendar and activities for Catawissa Borough in 2020. Councilwoman Barbara Reese announced Dumpster Day is questionable. It will depend on cost if Dumpster day can happen. Borough Manager Larry Kopp stated residents expressed on the survey they would like a Farmers Market. The Farmers Market for 2020 will be held on Saturday's at Eyer Park. Councilman Roy Klinger suggested having good signage. Councilwoman Barbara Reese offered her assistance to the members on the Parks & Recreation/Economic Development Committee next year since she has done these events for many years. All Aye
- A motion was made by Victoria Waugh, 2nd by AJ McKenney to approve internships for Bloomsburg University Students to support a summer camp program in 2020 for Borough Youth. All Aye

PROPERTY & BUILDING MAINTENANCE:

- A motion was made by Gary Steinruck, 2nd by Patsy Hess to discuss procuring an elevation certificate for Borough Barns for the purchase of flood insurance. Peters Consultants quoted \$500.00 for both of the properties for the elevation certificates. A motion was made by Barbara Reese, 2nd by Roy Klinger to purchase the elevation certificates. All Aye

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION:

- Chairperson Doug Krum read account balances.
- A motion was made by Patsy Hess, 2nd by Gary Steinruck to approve updated Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) for Non-Uniform Pension Plans for FY 2020. All Aye
- A motion was made by AJ McKenney, 2nd Gary Steinruck to approve the Joinder Agreement for Non-Uniform Employees. Council Vice President Gary Steinruck asked what the cost was going to be with this change. Borough Manager Larry Kopp explained to Mr. Steinruck the updated MMO reflects this cost for 2020. Mr. Kopp read off the MMO numbers and explained that at the end of the year funds will be looked at to see what can be added to the MMO. 6, Aye; Gary Steinruck, Nay
- A motion was made by Barbara Reese, 2nd by Roy Klinger to approve Resolution 2019-11 regarding of Joinder Amendment for the Borough of Catawissa Non-Uniform Employees' Pension Plan. All Aye
- A motion was made by Patsy Hess, 2nd by AJ McKenney to approve the breakdown of 2019 PA State Aid for distribution to Borough. All Aye

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:

- A motion was made by Barbara Reese, 2nd by Patsy Hess to approve appointing Trisha Bauman to the Civil Service Commission. All Aye
- A motion was made by Victoria Waugh, 2nd by Roy Klinger to approve hiring an additional full-time Police Officer in 2020. Council members asked where the money is coming from. Councilwoman Victoria Waugh explained from not paying overtime for officers covering shifts that part time officers are not available to work. Ms. Waugh also explained the trend of declining interest in being police officers. Chief Laidacker explained with another full-time officer a 12-hour rotating schedule can be used to avoid over time and this will provide less of a need for part time officers. Borough Manager Larry Kopp explained the benefits of hiring another full-time officer for the pension plan. Guest Sharon Krum expressed her concern of work that needs done in the borough and not having the money for the work if the Borough hires another full-time officer. After some more discussion about the 12-hour shifts and the cost a roll call vote was taken. Barbara Reese, Nay; Patsy Hess, Nay; Roy Klinger, Aye; AJ McKenney, Aye; Gary Steinruck, Nay, Doug Krum, Aye, Victoria Waugh, Aye. Motion carries
- A motion was made by Victoria Waugh, 2nd by AJ McKenney to advertise for a full-time Officer starting January 1, 2020. 4 Aye; Barbara Reese, Nay; Patsy Hess, Nay; Gary Steinruck, Nay. Motion carries

UNION:

- Committee Chairperson Doug Krum had nothing to report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- A motion was made by Barbara Reese, 2nd by AJ McKenney to approve an increase for OTC Contracting for work at the Catawissa Senior & Community Centers from \$7,265 to \$8,565 due to blocking in two windows at the Senior Center. All Aye

NEW BUSINESS

FINANCE PAYMENT OF BILLS

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

GUESTS TO BE HEARD

- Guest Lori Breech asked Chief Laidacker if the present part-time officers would be replaced if they left. Chief Laidacker responded no they would not. Ms. Breech expressed she did not know the Borough had a Community Center. Ms. Breech also asked if the Community Center was handicap accessible. Councilwoman Barbara Reese and Council Vice President Gary Steinruck explained what all was made handicap accessible. Ms. Breech also asked if it was the best use of funds and not looking for another place instead of making the changes at the Community Center. Councilwoman Barbara Reese responded they tore down everything else. Council Vice President Gary Steinruck stated the borough already owned the building. Ms. Breech asked if there are any plans on having future events there. Borough Manager Larry Kopp stated that is the plan. Ms. Breech asked if the Community Center is going to become private. Councilwoman Patsy Hess responded it can't become private because the Borough owns it. Council President Doug Krum told Ms. Breech if she had any ideas for the community center please call Borough Manager Larry Kopp
- Guest Crystal Stoker announced Franklin Township is interested to participate in Dumpster Day for 2020.
- Borough Manager Larry Kopp explained AMP wanted the Borough to participate in the Pennsylvania Peak Shaving Project. Mr. Kopp would like Attorney Anthony McDonald to look over the contract. In the meantime, Mr. Kopp will gather more information and get a phone vote on approval to sign the contract.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

MEETING ADJOURNED

Submitted by:

Connie M. Cole Borough Secretary