

CATAWISSA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY May 11, 2020

An Executive Session took place before the 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, AJ McKenney, Roy Klinger, Janel Patel, Gina Trapani, Victoria Waugh, Borough Manager Larry Kopp, Mayor Todd Burke, Attorney Anthony McDonald. Corey Yule attended via telephone at approximately 7:18 p.m.

READING OF MINUTES:

- A motion was made by Gina Trapani, 2nd by Victoria Waugh to dispense reading of and approve minutes of the previous month's meeting. All Aye
- A motion was made by AJ McKenney, 2nd by Gina Trapani to dispense reading of and approve minutes of the March 26th Emergency Council Meeting. All Aye

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Guest Sue Helwig asked about the property PIN 080108600 on the agenda. Manager Larry Kopp stated this was going to be tabled for there are bigger fish to fry right now.
- Guest Mike Swartzlander asked what the Mutual Aid Agreement was that is on the agenda. Council President Doug Krum explain this was for Catawissa Borough, Locust Township and Montour Township Police Departments to cover each other if officers in these departments are out and short coverage because of COVID-19. Each department will be reimbursed if mutual aid is given.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Borough Secretary Connie Cole had nothing to report

MAYOR:

- Mayor Todd Burke reported things were going as well as can be expected during this crisis.
- Mayor Burke stated Full-Time Officer McNelis has a good head on her shoulders, smart and is doing a really good job.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

- Borough Manager Larry Kopp handed out updated information packets on the COVID-19 and reported the following:
- Mr. Kopp reviewed the stay at home order, what is reimbursable to municipalities, no construction in the Borough, Family First Act, and the Small Business Paycheck Protection Program.
- All documentation is done for the Culvert and 3rd St paving projects. Both are ready to go for the summer; the borough is just waiting to see when construction can start again.
- Greenwood Cemetery Project is on hold also. Roth Cemetery Services is planning to do the work in late June and July, depending on when they can again start work after the Governor's ban on non-essential activities is lifted. Council President Doug Krum asked if this was voted on to delay

this project. Manager Larry Kopp stated he didn't think so. Council President Doug Krum stated he would have to check on that.

- Lauren Rose was the recipient of the \$3,000 scholarship from AMP. AMP would like to present the scholarship at a Council Meeting at a future date.
- Mr. Kopp met with Peters and Penn Strategies to discuss the possibilities of a project for Eyer Park. There is a grant opportunity for small communities (Population of 5,000 and under) that have reduced grant matches. We can also potentially use expenses for engineering and work already done as matches for the grant. What we are looking at is a pedestrian crossing over the railroad (there is none now), a pavilion and a small boat/kayak dock in the river.
- Information/registration packets for the farmer's market have been mailed out to 200 vendors. Mr. Kopp received the first registration back today.
- Spoke with AMP about getting cost for Advanced Metering Infrastructure. Billing Software and handhelds need to be upgraded by next year.
- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by AJ McKenney to postpone Dumpster Day and Community Yard Sale until further notice. All Aye

Received phone call from resident Mike Swartzlander stating the video and call in meeting was not working. Mr. Swartzlander was advised it was working on our end please try calling in.

WATER:

- Water Authority Superintendent Cindy Bachman spoke during last Guest to Heard. Ms. Bachman tried to connect to meeting but was unable to do so due to technical issues the Borough was having.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:

- Nothing to report.

POLICE:

- Mayor Todd Burke read the Chief's monthly report which stated the following:
- During the month of March 2020, the department responded to (144) calls for service.
- A new computer mount was installed in Car #2 using donation funds.
- The department is still waiting for the new computer which was ordered using donation funds.
- The street department is finished with the storage closet.
- With authorization of the Mayor, the department has implemented policies which will serve to protect both our offices and the public during the COVID-19 outbreak. Officers are attempting to balance visibility with social distancing. We remain in service 24 hours per day.
- On March 4th, the Chief and McNelis read Dr. Seuss to the elementary students at SCA.
- The department participated in the "drive up" birthday event in Hemlock Township.
- The open position at the department has been advertised and we are now accepting applications. The testing dates have been set for mid-April.
- The Chief attended firearms training and is now certified as a Defensive Firearms Instructor.
- The annual Chief's Conference has been cancelled due to COVID-19 concerns.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by Victoria Waugh to approve Resolution 2020-07, establishing a Mutual Aid Agreement between Catawissa Borough, Locust Township and Montour Township in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic. All Aye.

UTILITIES:

- Committee Chairperson AJ McKenney read the totals for outstanding utility accounts.

PARKS & RECREATION/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

- A motion was made by AJ McKenney, 2nd by Roy Klinger to approve Resolution 2020-5, approving the submission of a Community Conservation Partnership Program Grant. All Aye
- A motion was made by AJ McKenney, 2nd by Roy Klinger to approve Resolution 2020-6, authorizing the submission of a Greenways Trails and Recreation Program Grant. All Aye

Received another call from resident Mike Swartzlander stating the video and call for the teleconference was still not working. After further investigation it was noticed the meeting dial in number and access code had changed. This information was passed on to Mr. Swartzlander and posted on the Borough website.

PROPERTY & BUILDING MAINTENANCE:

- A motion to discuss the purchase of property PIN 08 01 08600, location of former Melick Aquafeed Plant was tabled.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION:

- Committee Chairperson Doug Krum stated nothing going on.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:

- A motion was made by Victoria Waugh, 2nd by Janel Patel to approve a 3% cost of living raise for the Borough Secretary and Treasurer, retroactive to January 1st, 2020. A roll call vote was taken. Janel Patel; Aye, Doug Krum; Aye, AJ McKenney; Aye, Gina Trapani; Aye, Roy Klinger; Aye, Victoria Waugh; Aye. Motion carries.
- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd AJ McKenney to approve hiring Jim Hermanski as part-time Streets employee, effective upon the termination of the Emergency Proclamation in the Borough and George Snyder is back to work. All Aye
- A motion was made by Victoria Waugh, 2nd by Roy Klinger to accept the resignation of Randy Howell as Zoning and Code Enforcement Officer. All Aye

Council Vice President Corey Yule joined the meeting via phone.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- A motion was made by Victoria Waugh, 2nd by AJ McKenney to approve the electronic vote of March 16th, 2020, establishing protection measures for the Borough to stem the spread of the COVID-19 virus. All Aye
- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by Corey Yule to approve the electronic vote of March 17th, 2020, approving a Proclamation declaring a State of Emergency.
- A motion was made by Corey Yule, 2nd by Roy Klinger to approve the electronic vote of March 20th, 2020, approving the furlough with full pay of non-essential Public Works Employees and the Code Enforcement Officer as well as part-time work by Borough Secretary and Treasurer with full pay through March 27th, 2020. All Aye
- A motion was made by Victoria Waugh, 2nd by Gina Trapani to approve vote of March 26th, 2020, approving the furlough with full pay of non-essential Public Works Employees and the Code Enforcement Officer as well as part-time work by Borough Secretary and Treasurer with full pay through April 10th, 2020. All Aye

- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by Victoria Waugh to approve the electronic vote of March 20th, 2020, approving the waiving of late fees on utility bills for businesses affected by the State's Closure of Non-Essential Businesses. All Aye
- A motion was made by Gina Trapani, 2nd by Victoria Waugh to discuss to rescind the vote to donate field dirt to Catawissa Little League. Councilmembers Roy Klinger and AJ McKenney rescind their motions to donate field dirt to Catawissa Little League. A motion was made by AJ McKenney, 2nd by Corey Yule to donate \$1100 to the Catawissa Little League for field maintenance. All Aye

NEW BUSINESS:

- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by Corey Yule to discuss the continued furlough of non-essential Public Works Employees and the Code Officer as well as part-time work by the Borough Secretary and Treasurer. A motion was made by Gina Trapani, 2nd by Janel Patel to continue the furlough with pay of non-essential Public Works Employees and the Code Officer as well as well as part-time work by Borough Secretary and Treasurer. All Aye
- A motion was made by Victoria Waugh, 2nd by Corey Yule to approve the closing of all parks, baseball and softball fields in the Borough of Catawissa. All Aye

FINANCE PAYMENT OF BILLS

- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by Gina Trapani to accept bills as written and any others that may arise before the next council meeting. All Aye

GUESTS TO BE HEARD

- Guest Cindy Bachman Water Authority Superintendent reported there is no evidence of the virus appearing in disinfected waters this comes from the World Health Organization, CDC and EPA. The Water Authority is continuing to work, practicing safe distancing, disinfecting our facilities and the office is closed to the public. Fire Hydrants will be flushed the first Monday in May and the annual Water Quality report will be going out at the end of April with water bills being included with that as well. Ms. Bachman expressed her concerns with people not knowing if the meeting was still going on. Ms. Bachman also commented her concerns with grants the Borough is applying for with everything happening right now at a state and federal level. Manager Larry Kopp explained that the grants that are being applied for are for 2021 and the intent is to apply for (2) grants so they can be used as matching grants.
- Guest Mike Swartzlander expressed his concerns with not being able to log in to the meeting until votes were taken on some agenda items. Mr. Kopp stated that the meeting was recorded and hopefully a video or audio of the meeting can be posted to our website. Manager Larry Kopp apologized for the technical difficulties that were experienced. Council President Doug Krum explained this was the first time Council has done a meeting like this. Mayor Todd Burke stated hopefully we get better as we do these types of meetings.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

MEETING ADJOURNED

Submitted by:

Connie M. Cole
Borough Secretary