

**CATAWISSA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**MONDAY May 11, 2020 - 6:30 p.m.**

**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, Corey Yule, AJ McKenney, Roy Klinger, Janel Patel, Gina Trapani, Victoria Waugh, Borough Manager Larry Kopp, Mayor Todd Burke, Attorney Anthony McDonald.

**READING OF MINUTES:**

- A motion was made by Core Yule, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Gina Trapani to dispense reading of and approve minutes of the previous month's meeting. All Aye

**GUESTS TO BE HEARD:**

- No Guest to be heard

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

- Borough Secretary Connie Cole had nothing to report.

**MAYOR:**

- Mayor Todd Burke had nothing to report.

**MANAGER'S REPORT:**

- Borough Manager Larry Kopp reported the following:
- All employees are back to work; Secretary and Treasurer are working half days each since there is no customer service.
- The Borough is not eligible for COVID-19 FEMA/PEMA funding.
- Mr. Kopp has been taking a lot of training classes.
- The culvert project will start this week and the South 3<sup>rd</sup> St. project will be completed by the end of June.
- The Borough applied for a grant from DCNR for the Eyer Park project. The Borough will also be applying for a matching grant from DCED at the end of the month.
- The Main Street street-scaping project is coming along. One grant needs to be applied for by July 31<sup>st</sup> and the 2<sup>nd</sup> grant in the fall.
- The Borough needs to do an inventory of all the streets to know what condition the streets are in and which ones need to be repaired next. An inventory of street signs is required to have on hand. Mr. Kopp is working on both of these inventories now.
- Mr. Kopp and Secretary Connie Cole have an appointment with Muncilink this week regarding our billing software.
- Mr. Kopp and Harry Young have a meeting on Friday May 15<sup>th</sup> with AMP regarding the infrastructure for automatic reading of meters.
- The hole on Kline Ave that ran into the storm-water runoff has been fixed.

WATER:

- Water Authority Superintendent Cindy Bachman had nothing to report.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:

- Nothing to report.

POLICE:

- Mayor Todd Burke read the Chief's monthly report which stated the following:
- During the month of April 2020, the department responded to (110) calls for service.
- Summer tires were put back on the vehicles. A bolt was removed from the tread of the SUV
- The department is still waiting for the new computer, which was ordered using donation funds.
- With authorization of the Mayor, the department has implemented policies that 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.
- Calls are down during the pandemic, and the most people seem to be following guidelines regarding social distancing and masks.
- The testing for the civil service police officer position has been completed. One candidate who failed the oral portion of the exam requested a re-test. Under the advisement of the Borough Solicitor and Civil Service Commission, the candidate was re-tested. The candidate failed on the second attempt.
- A candidate was selected by the Civil Service Commission for hiring.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Victoria Waugh to approve the hiring of David Krape as a full-time Police Officer with the Catawissa Borough Police Department. All Aye.

UTILITIES:

- Committee Chairperson Corey Yule read the totals for outstanding utility accounts.

PARKS & RECREATION/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

- A motion was made by Corey Yule, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Janel Patel to approve the indefinite postponement of Kids Day and the Catawissa Heritage Market. All Aye
- A motion was made by AJ McKenney, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Roy Klinger to discuss hiring Coal Creative to design logos and style guides for Catawissa Borough, the Summer Breeze Concert Series and Catawissa Community Center with a budget of \$1,500. Borough Manager Larry Kopp explained why it is necessary to have a consistent and professional image for the municipality. Attorney Anthony McDonald told Council about Salem Township putting their logo out to the High School Art Department to be designed offering a prize of \$100.00 if one was picked. Councilwoman Victoria Waugh stated she was going to suggest going through the art department as well. Borough Manager Larry Kopp expressed he feels something like this would be better if it was done by a professional. All Aye

PROPERTY & BUILDING MAINTENANCE:

- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Corey Yule to discuss our contract with American Tower for the lease of the property on 405 South 4<sup>th</sup> Street. Borough Manager Larry Kopp explained that American Tower is stating they are not making as much money as they were and would like to revisit the lease to lower the monthly payment and the yearly increase but extend the lease 10 more years. Attorney Anthony McDonald stated there is no other place they can go

with the tower so tell them no. Councilman Corey Yule asked if American Tower provided any documentation showing their numbers are done. Borough Manager Larry Kopp and Attorney Anthony McDonald replied no. A motion was made by Gina Trapani, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Victoria Waugh to say no to American Tower's request. All Aye

- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Corey Yule to approve replacing the sewer main for \$18,750.00 on S. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street before the paving project. Councilman Corey Yule asked if this would still keep the project under budget. Borough Manager Larry Kopp stated yes. All Aye
- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Victoria Waugh to discuss the draft termination agreement with Strong Capital X, concerning abandonment of the wire lines within the right of way of the Norfolk Southern Railroad line. Attorney Anthony McDonald wanted to confirm that all facilities have been removed or abandoned fully in accordance with the guidelines specified by the appropriate railroad. Mr. McDonald asked has that happened and is it true. Borough Manager Larry Kopp stated yes that is true. Attorney Anthony McDonald said if that is true then this is ok to sign. If that is not true then you are basically saying it is ok for them to charge you. Council President Doug Krum instructed Borough Manager Larry Kopp to check with Harry Young one more time before signing the agreement. A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Corey Yule provide Larry Kopp checks with Harry Young that everything is good down there it is okay to sign the agreement and send it back in. All Aye

#### FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION:

- Committee Chairperson Doug Krum read account balances.

#### PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:

- Committee Chairperson Doug Krum had nothing to report.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- A motion was made by AJ McKenney, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Corey Yule to approve the electronic vote of April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020, approving paying Peters Consulting Engineers \$4,580 from the Eyer Fund for the design of improvements at Eyer Park. Council President Doug Krum asked Borough Manager Larry Kopp to recap what was discussed for this motion. Mr. Kopp stated this was for the grant that was submitted. Peter's did the plan without payment for the floating kayak launch, pavilion and a handicap walkway over the railroad down to the riverfront. All Aye
- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Gina Trapani to approve the electronic vote of April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020, approving the waiving of all past due fees for Utility Accounts for the April Bill Cycle. All Aye

#### NEW BUSINESS:

- No new business to discuss.

#### FINANCE PAYMENT OF BILLS

- A motion was made by Gina Trapani, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Corey Yule 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 asked Borough Manager Larry Kopp about trade off on the amount of material they are going to excavate on the S. 3<sup>rd</sup> St. paving project. Ms. Bachman stated she thought they would not have to go down 19.5" all the way across. Ms. Bachman thought they wouldn't have to extend off to the sides and this would be a saving on the contractor's end. Borough Manager Larry Kopp stated he would check with the contractor tomorrow to make sure.

- Guest Sue Helwig asked if there was any way to have a conversation about what can be done to get more businesses going in town. Borough Manager Larry Kopp stated he would speak with anyone. Ms. Helwig stated that maybe there is grant money available to help business owners. Mr. Kopp stated anyone could come talk to him about this, he would be more than glad to see what is available.
- Guest Dena Snyder asked how to get a meeting with Manger Larry Kopp. Mr. Kopp stated just call the Borough Office 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- Guest Tara Timpanelli introduced herself, daughter of the late Keith Whitmoyer he was the owner of the old Maxi Building. Ms. Timpanelli stated she is to inherit the building and has big plans for the old building. Borough Manager Larry Kopp asked Ms. Timpanelli to stop by the Boro Hall he would love to hear what plans she has for the building.
- Guest Sue Helwig stated Walt Gosciminski asked Ms. Helwig if she could see what was available for him in regards to grants. Ms. Helwig also stated Walt was on the call if he wanted to say anything. Ms. Helwig then asked Borough Manager if that was ok to do that on Walt's behalf. Borough Manager Larry Kopp said sure come on down.

ADJOURNMENT:

- A motion was made by Gina Trapani, 2<sup>nd</sup> by AJ McKenney to adjourn. All Aye

MEETING ADJOURNED

Submitted by:

Connie M. Cole  
Borough Secretary