

CATAWISSA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, JULY 6, 2015 – 6:30 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER:

- The meeting was called to order by Council President, Scott Keefer
- The pledge of allegiance was recited.

ROLL CALL:

- Present were: Scott Keefer, Connie Benware, Gary Steinruck, Forest McClintock, Doug Krum, Borough Manager Roger Nuss, Attorney Anthony McDonald.
- Jay Roberts, Joe Benware and Mayor Achy were absent.

READING OF MINUTES:

- **Forest McClintock made a motion** seconded by Connie Benware to dispense with the reading of and approve the minutes of the previous month's meeting with the changes Linda Kashner, Barb Reese asked for. All aye.

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Doug Krum asked about the enclosure at the CARA park pavilion. Council explained that this was a temporary structure for the concerts.
- Linda Kashner asked about the cost of the structure. Roger explained the cost was approximately \$500 not including labor. The structure will be removed when the concerts and fire carnival are over.
- JAY ROBERTS ARRIVED AT THE MEETING AT THIS TIME.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Catawissa Hose Company is asking for donations to offset the cost of the carnival.
- Linda Neyer submitted a letter asking council to regulate the condition of properties owned by landlords.
- Catawissa First Church asked for permission to close South Street from South Second Street to Berger Avenue on September 13, 2015.
- **Doug Krum made a motion** seconded by Connie Benware to close South Street from Berger Avenue to South Second Street on Saturday, September 13, 2015. All aye.
- **Forest McClintock made a motion** seconded by Gary Steinruck to donate \$1,000 to the Fire Company to offset the cost of the carnival. All aye.

MAYOR:

- The Mayor was not present to conduct a report.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

- Manager Roger Nuss gave a summary report of the activities of the employees for the month.
- Roger also gave a summary report for his activities for the month.

- Doug Krum questioned whether to council voted to utilize the Remit Corp. Forest understood that the Utility committee was going to meet with the representative from Remit and report back to council.

WATER:

- Water Authority Superintendent Cindy Bachman reported that Columbia County remains in a Draught watch with a 5% voluntary reduction in water usage.

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICE:

- Code Enforcement Officer James Haney reported that the office responded to 28 (twenty-eight) calls for the month. The office also issued 12 (twelve) door hangers to properties 16 (sixteen) letters were written, 1 (one) day was spent in court.
- Gary Steinruck asked about the progress of the wall behind the Opera House. Mr. Haney has been in contact with the owners of the Opera House and some issues must be addressed.
- Forest McClintock asked about the progress of the construction on S. Third St. Mr. Haney explained that the Columbia County Planning Commission has asked for information and Peter's Consultants is providing the information.
- Linda Kashner asked about the homes across the street from the construction project. Mr. Haney explained that this issue is going to court.
- The Main Street property that is in bad condition that is also in process of the court.
- Sharon Krum stated that she was under the impression that the person(s) that purchased and tore down the old Eminee Factory had a certain amount of time to build on the property. Mr. Haney stated no time line was issued.
- Gary Steinruck made a motion seconded by Jay Roberts to have the wall area behind the opera house sprayed to kill the weeds. All aye.
- Gary Steinruck made the motion seconded by Doug Krum to have the area behind the Opera House surveyed. All aye.

POLICE:

- Police Chief Joshua Laidacker reported that during the month of June the department responded to 164 (one hundred sixty-four) calls as recorded by Columbia County Communications.
- The vehicles are going to need some attention.
- Fire arms class was a success. A special thank you to Paul DeAngelo and the Catawissa Fire Company.
- Gary Steinruck suggested the SUV be checked immediately for service to the transmission.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

- Committee Chairperson, Forest McClintock asked for a clarification regarding the residency of a police officer in the Civil Service Resolution. The officer must live within a 25 mile radius as stated by Civil Service Board Chairperson, Harold Kitchen.

- Forest McClintock addressed issues he has been contacted about regarding the outside area of the Cracker Barrel. He has received phone calls and personal contact regarding the noise, open containers and bad language at the seating area outside the bar. Alicia Hollingshead, Manager of the Cracker Barrel spoke to address the issues. Chief Laidacker asked that if there is any issue at the Cracker Barrel they should call the police department. Andy Williams, a bartender at the Cracker Barrel also spoke to let people know to go into the bar to tell the bartender if someone is miss behaving.

UTILITIES:

- Committee Chairperson, Connie Benware announced that late notices for electric and sewer will be mailed tomorrow and no meters were pulled last month.

PARKS & RECREATION:

- Connie Benware spoke for committee chairperson, Joe Benware announced “Kid’s Day” will be held on July 25, 2015 from 11 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

PROPERTY/BUILDING MAINTENANCE:

- Committee Chairperson, Gary Steinruck asked that a vote be made under New Business regarding the purchase of more LED street lights.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION:

- Committee Chairperson, Scott Keefer announced that the Borough net income as of meeting day is \$101,360.10.

UNION NEGOTIATION:

- Committee Chairperson, Scott Keefer had nothing to report on this matter.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

- Committee Chairperson, Doug Krum had nothing to report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Manager, Roger Nuss asked for clarification of the dimensions regarding the fence around the recycling bins. Harold Kitchen asked to have the bins emptied at a more reasonable time. They are coming very late at night. Council asked for enough room for the 3 (three) dumpsters plus 2-3 feet diameter.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Forest McClintock made the motion** seconded by Gary Steinruck to approve adopting Resolution 2015-10 to allow only the Borough of Catawissa to aggregate demand response of retail customers in accordance with FERC Order 719 pending a discussion. Roger Nuss explained the demand response. All aye.
- **Forest McClintock made the motion** seconded by Doug Krum to amend the coordination agreement between PPL Electric and the Borough of Catawissa. This is part of the agreed terms in the FERC settlement. After a discussion, all aye.

- **Gary Steinruck made the motion** seconded by Scott Keefer to accept the quote from Kocher \$1,750 in order to remove the tree at Union Cemetery. \$2665 Brown, \$1750 Kocher. All aye.
- **Doug Krum made the motion** seconded by Connie Benware to replace the tree at Union Cemetery with a Red Oak tree recommended by Mick Flemming. All aye.
- Manager Roger Nuss discussed the amount of work needed at the Union and Greenwood cemeteries.
- **Forest McClintock made the motion** seconded by Doug Krum to provide Wayne Kashner with the employee help and equipment to restore Union and Greenwood Cemeteries. All aye.
- **Forest McClintock made the motion** seconded by Scott Keefer to adopt Resolution 2015-11 submitted by the Civil Service Board. All aye.
- **Jay Roberts made the motion** seconded by Forest McClintock to hire a full time police officer. Roll call vote: Doug Krum-no, Forest McClintock-yes, Gary Steinruck-no, Jay Roberts-yes, Connie Benware-yes, Scott Keefer-yes. Motion passes 4-2.
- **Forest McClintock made the motion** seconded by Jay Roberts to use Liquid Fuels funds for repairs to Berger Ave. from SR 42 to South Street and North Third Street from Quinn Ave. to Pine Street at an estimated cost of \$46,052.50. All aye.
- **Forest McClintock made the motion** seconded by Scott Keefer consider the disaster recovery buyout program overview, considerations, and strategies. Buy out of more flood properties from the 2011 flood. This will include businesses that were not part of the program last time and residents that had opted out. All aye.
- **Gary Steinruck made the motion** seconded by Forest McClintock to accept the quote from HD Supply for the purchase of 60 (sixty) LED street lights at the cost of \$7,530.00. All aye.

FINANCE:

- **Connie Benware made the motion** seconded by Gary Steinruck to accept the payment of bills as written. All aye.

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Barb Reese asked about the communication to businesses when a power outage occurred. The Borough will work on a solution to this problem. Linda Kashner suggested a message at the sewer plant since they have a generator.
- Linda Kashner asked for the status of the 2014 audit report. Mr. Nuss explained that it would be ready soon. The auditors are waiting for a document.

ADJOURNMENT:

- Forest McClintock made the motion to adjourn. Jay Roberts seconded the motion. All aye.

MEETING ADJOURNED:

Submitted by:
Kimberly Rhoades
Secretary