

## **CATAWISSA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MONDAY March 9, 2020**

An Executive Session was held before 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.

### 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 Victoria Waugh, 2nd by Corey Yule to dispense reading of and approve minutes of the previous month's Feb. 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. All Aye
- A motion was made by Victoria Waugh, 2nd by Corey Yule to dispense reading of and approve minutes of the previous month's Feb. 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. All Aye

### GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Guest Cindy Bachman asked if the Rules of Decorum are what is going to be made official. Ms. Bachman asked for the rules of decorum to be explained. Attorney Anthony McDonald went over and summarized the Rules of Decorum. Ms. Bachman requested that it be added to the Resolution that council may recognize guests during the discussion/vote of agenda items.
- Guest Sue Helwig asked how to give feedback on agenda items if there is not an understanding of agenda items. Ms. Helwig was informed the agenda is posted on the Borough's website the Thursday before the meeting. Attorney McDonald also stated if anyone has any questions on agenda items, they can call the Borough Manager Larry Kopp.

### CORRESPONDENCE:

- Borough Secretary Connie Cole reported the Borough received the following:
- A thank you card from Catawissa Hose Co. #1 for the generous donation of pizza to the volunteers at the Melick Aquafeed fire.
- A letter from VFW Post 8306 regarding the stop of all activity pertaining to the new building.
- 2019 Civil Service Commission Report.

### MAYOR:

- Mayor Todd Burke stated he went on (3) ride alongs with the Police Department. Mayor Burke stated it was exciting and he learned a lot.
- Mayor Burke read and presented a Proclamation for the Recognition of Catawissa Fire Hose Company #1's efforts in fighting the Melick Aquafeed Fire on Saturday, February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Mayor Burke proclaimed Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020 as Catawissa Hose Company #1 Appreciation Day, and Mayor Burke encouraged all citizens to show support and appreciation to our firefighters who protect our lives and property so diligently throughout the year.

### MANAGER'S REPORT:

- Borough Manager Larry Kopp reported the following:
- Water Quality Permit Package has been approved. Penn Strategies is looking into various grant programs for funding.

- April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 European Blues Singer/ Songwriter Claude Bourbon will perform at the Catawissa Community Center.
- Eliza Fenstermacher, a Girl Scout, wants to place a book box in the grassy area outside of the Borough Hall as her project for the Silver Award. Plans to install the box are set for summer.
- Mr. Kopp has been working with Melick Aquafeed to find grant funding to help rebuild within Catawissa Borough and finding a location where they can set up production temporarily until they can find a permanent home.

**A recess was taken at 6:54 p.m. due to a guest becoming ill. Meeting was called to order at 7:19 p.m.**

- The bands are booked for the Summer Breeze Concert Series, also Julia Hoffman from Danville's Knack Creative Studios will provide crafts for children and tentatively have food trucks providing food for concert attendees.
- Information/registration packets have been mailed to over 100 potential vendors. The market will be on Saturday's from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m.
- Renewal notice from Geisinger for Public Works Health Insurance has an increase of 27.4%. We are exploring whether we can find a comparable plan at a lower rate from another provider.
- Liquid Fuels allocation of \$55,208.80 and \$2,320.00 in Turnback Funds will be received in March.
- On Saturday March 28<sup>th</sup> will be a community work day to clean out the riverbank next to Eyer Park. The Borough is looking for volunteers to help clean out brush.
- Our Electric billing software is obsolete next year. We will be looking at all possible technologies to replace our current billing and meter reading technology.

**WATER:**

- Water Authority Superintendent Cindy Bachman had nothing to report.

**CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:**

- Councilwoman Victoria Waugh read the code enforcement report.

**POLICE:**

- Borough Manager Larry Kopp read the Chief's monthly report which stated the following:
- During the month of February 2020, the department responded to (219) calls for service.
- The department is still waiting for the new computer which was ordered using donation funds.
- The street department is nearly finished with the storage closet.
- No applications were received for the posted position. This is not unusual and compares with surrounding department's experiences.
- McNelis and Kistner attended Vehicle Inspection Class February 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>.
- McNeilis, Kistner and Kinney attended Search and Seizure class on February 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Mayor Burke gave an explanation on the impact being short a 5<sup>th</sup> Officer has on the scheduling and the expense this causes with overtime.

**PUBLIC SAFETY:**

- Committee Chairperson Doug Krum stated there was nothing to report.

**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 Gina Trapani to discuss potential Economic Development incentives for the Borough of Catawissa. Borough Manager Larry Kopp explained the opportunities that maybe available through DRIVE naming one as the Local Economic Revitalization Tax Assistance Act. Mr. Kopp briefly explained what the act was and just wanted to keep council informed for the future.
- Council President Doug Krum passed the gavel to Vice President Corey Yule to finish conducting the meeting because Mr. Krum has a cold and was having a hard time speaking.

#### PROPERTY & BUILDING MAINTENANCE:

- A motion was made by AJ McKenney, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Roy Klinger to discuss the sale of the Borough Mobile Dewatering Unit. Borough Manager Larry Kopp explained that we did not meet the reserved bid on municbid.com. But received a call from Waterford Pennsylvania Municipality offering \$6,000 for the Dewatering Unit. A motion was made by AJ McKenney, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Victoria Waugh to accept the \$6,000.00 bid on the Mobile Dewatering Unit.
- A motion was made by Victoria Waugh, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Janel Patel to approve installing concrete bollards in front of 126 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street to stop truck damage. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Victoria Waugh to purchase (2) plastic water barriers to place in the street to block truck damage to 126 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street. All Aye

#### FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION:

- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Gina Trapani to approve a bid for Culvert Replacement Project. Borough Manager Larry Kopp explained the bid options. A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Victoria Waugh to accept the bid for the largest pipe size for the Culvert Project from Dave Gutelius Excavating at \$279,311.25.
- A motion was made by, Roy Klinger, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Victoria Waugh to approve the opening of Bids for the South 3<sup>rd</sup> Street Paving Project. Please see attachment A1 for a list of bids submitted. A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Doug Krum to approve the bid from Dave Gutelius Excavating at \$105,206.50 for the South 3<sup>rd</sup> Street Paving Project. All Aye
- A motion was made by Doug Krum, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Victoria Waugh to approve low bid to develop a cost estimate for a streetscaping project on Main Street using the Eyer Fund. Borough Manager Larry Kopp announced bids that where received, Peter's Consultants, Inc. \$3,860.00 and Larson Design Group \$13,000. A motion was made by Doug Krum, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Victoria Waugh to approve Peter's Consultants, Inc. to develop cost estimate for a streetscaping project on Main Street using the Eyer Fund. All Aye
- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2<sup>nd</sup> by AJ McKenney to discuss lost income projection after the loss of Melick Aquafeed's electric income. Borough Manager Larry Kopp explained the estimated income loss and the savings from the (2) projects (culvert & 3<sup>rd</sup> St paving) just about covers the loss. Mr. Kopp stated Penn Strategies is trying to have the Culvert project match to be forgiven. Attorney Anthony McDonald and Councilman Roy Klinger stated we need to be careful for next year and how we move forward.

#### PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:

- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Doug Krum to approve using \$1000 from the Police & Non-Uniform Pension Plans to pay for 2019 GASB 67 & 68 Actuarial Services. All Aye
- A motion was made by Victoria Waugh, 2<sup>nd</sup> Doug Krum to approve hiring Robert Jones as part-time Code Enforcement Officer at \$16/hour for 16 hours per week. All Aye

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Chief Laidacker asked Council to approve advertising again for a full-time Police Officer since no applications were received from the first advertisement. A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Doug Krum to approve to re-advertise for a full-time Police Officer. All Aye
- Chief Laidacker presented to Council that he has an opportunity to purchase a 2006 Ford Crown Victoria Interceptor for \$2,500 from another municipality as a training vehicle and back up vehicle if one of the other vehicles are out of service. Chief Laidacker explained that the purchase of the vehicle and the insurance for 2020 would be paid for out of the donation fund to take the strain off of the budget. A motion was made by Doug Krum, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Victoria Waugh to approve Chief Laidacker to get that car with donation money. All Aye

#### NEW BUSINESS:

- A motion was made by Doug Krum, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Victoria Waugh to approve Resolution 2020-04 regarding Rules of Decorum for Borough Council Meetings. Councilman AJ McKenney expressed he feels the public being able to speak throughout the meeting was helpful at times. A roll call vote was taken. Victoria Waugh; Aye, Doug Krum; Aye, Corey Yule; Aye, AJ McKenney; Nay, Roy Klinger; Nay. Janel Patel; Aye, Gina Trapani; Aye Motion carries.
- A motion was made by AJ McKenney, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Doug Krum to approve sending Chase Petty to Basic Rubber Glove School, June 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020, in Somerset, PA. All Aye
- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Gina Trapani to approve non-emergency activities of Catawissa Hose Company in 2020. All Aye
- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2<sup>nd</sup> AJ McKenney to approve providing field dirt for the Borough Softball Field and Little League Field. All Aye

#### FINANCE PAYMENT OF BILLS

- A motion was made by Doug Krum, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Victoria Waugh to accept bills as written and any other that may arise before the next council meeting. All Aye

#### GUESTS TO BE HEARD

- Guest Sharon Krum offered to donate \$300.00 towards a sink & faucet to be installed at the Community Center. A motion was made by Doug Krum, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Roy Klinger to accept the donation of \$300 from Sharon Krum to be used towards a sink & faucet at the Community Center. All Aye
- Guest Patty Hess stated the Council was doing what they said they would not do by voting on the car that was not on the agenda. Attorney McDonald stated the law did not pass yet that you cannot vote on items that are not on the agenda. Ms. Hess stated but you said you would not be doing that anymore and you did it anyway so if anyone had any questions, they couldn't ask them. Mayor Todd Burke asked Ms. Hess if she had any questions. Ms. Hess replied no but that is not the point.
- Guest Susan Helwig asked what the car was that is being purchased. Chief Laidacker explained it is a Crown Vic interceptor, Police Vehicle.
- Guest Cindy Bachman asked if a guest spoke on an agenda item after the motion and Council liked their insight could a motion be revisited. Attorney Anthony McDonald responded yes; a motion can be changed with a motion provided the person who made the motion rescinded their motion and the person who 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion rescinded their motion
- Guest Nicole Slusser asked If Robert Jones has any qualifications, certifications or background in Code Enforcement. Borough Manager Larry Kopp stated Mr. Jones does not. Mr. Kopp explained the Borough hired Building Inspection Underwriters to do all building inspections. Ms. Slusser asked if Mr. Jones then just needed to be familiar with ordinances and codes. Borough Manager responded yes, he will need to know them inside and out. Ms. Slusser asked if there was a

schedule for him and Mr. Kopp responded he would be here in the afternoon so there will be a Code Enforcement Officer here all day.

ADJOURNMENT:

- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Victoria Waugh to adjourn. All Aye

MEETING ADJOURNED

Submitted by:

Connie M. Cole  
Borough Secretary