

CATAWISSA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY November 9, 2020 - 6:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER:

- The meeting was called to order by Council President, Doug Krum.
- Council Vice President Corey Yule confirmed with Borough Manager Larry Kopp that the meeting was being recorded.
- Attorney Anthony McDonald confirmed with Borough Manager Larry Kopp that we were open to the public.

ROLL CALL:

- Present were: Doug Krum, Corey Yule, AJ McKenney, Roy Klinger, Janel Patel, Jamie Cotner, Victoria Waugh, Borough Manager Larry Kopp, Mayor Todd Burke, Attorney Anthony McDonald.

READING OF MINUTES:

- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by Victoria Waugh to dispense reading of and approve minutes of the previous month's meeting. All Aye

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Guest Sue Helwig asked what are the changes to the nuisance and abandoned vehicle ordinance. Borough Manager Larry Kopp explained roman numerals were added to the definitions so police can better write citations. Ms. Helwig asked what are the changes from and to for the police contribution. Borough Manager Larry Kopp stated it is going from 4% to 3.5 % and that is according to contract. Ms. Helwig proceeded to ask if the 2-year contract for the Zoning Officer is for the same number of hours. Borough Manager Larry Kopp answered yes 20 hours a week. Ms. Helwig asked what the Resolution for Zoning Hearing Board was for. Borough Manager Larry Kopp stated there are 3 seats and 2 alternates on the Zoning Hearing Board. Council needs to fill 1 seat and both alternates.
- Guest Barbara Reese asked why we need so many logos and why can't we have one defining logo. Borough Manager Larry Kopp stating these were all related to the original logo. They help brand the Summer Breeze Series and Community Center better. Ms. Reese asked where are the logos for people to see. Ms. Reese also asked what is being done for the Borough Hall to be sanitized. Ms. Reese asked if there was any possibility anyone being there to vote was exposed. Borough Manager Larry Kopp stated someone will need to come in and sanitize according to CDC guidelines. Attorney Antony McDonald stated no one knows if someone was there and was exposed when everyone is breathing the same air, there isn't any way to know the answer to that question.
- Councilwoman Victoria Waugh asked if her impression was correct that the Zoning Officer could work 20 to 32 hours per week. Council President Doug Krum asked Attorney McDonald his thoughts, Attorney McDonald stated up to 30 hours per week to stay part time. Attorney McDonald also stated he did not start the 2-year contract for the Zoning Officer so Council can add whatever they want to the contract right now.
- Guest Connie Cole thanked the Borough Public Works Employees on behalf of the Catawissa Valley Lions Club for their help and being great team players in regards to the Catawissa Valley Lions Club 1st Annual Food Truck Event.
- Guest Patsy Hess asked how much additional pay is the Corporal position. Borough Manager Larry Kopp stated it is \$5000. Ms. Hess asked where the money was coming from. Council President Doug Krum stated it was already in the budget. Ms. Hess said it is additional, you had to come up with it. Ms. Hess proceeded to ask what Chase Petty is making now. Ms. Hess was

told they were not sure off the top of their head. Mr. Petty would be getting 20% increase off of \$19-\$20/hr.

- Guest Jason Fitzgerald updated Council on grant applications that are pending. Mr. Fitzgerald also mentioned some grants were moved back due to Covid. Penn Strategies will be looking out for any grants that come up and for grants opening in the New Year.
- Guest Sue Helwig asked Mr. Fitzgerald if he looked into anything for the Railroad Station at the end of town. Mr. Fitzgerald stated the options for the Railroad Station.
- Guest Sue Helwig asked Council President Doug Krum if there was no one else to do Chase's job. Council President Doug Krum replied Bob Dunkelberger can do the job but with his back hurting he prefers not to do it. Councilwoman Victoria Waugh explained Chase has been through all the training and will have to continue to do ongoing training and it is a Superintendent position.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Council President Doug Krum thanked Connie and Charlie Cole for the computer donation to the Electric Department.
- Council President Doug Krum thanked the Water Authority for their donation of water for the Catawissa Valley Lions Club Food Truck Event.
- Borough Secretary Connie Cole stated the computer she and her husband donated on Oct. 18th was still without a monitor and she would like to see the donation utilized. Council President Doug Krum and Councilman Corey Yule asked Borough Manager Larry Kopp to purchase a computer monitor the next day. Councilwoman Victoria Waugh asked Manager Larry Kopp to confirmed the monitor would be purchased the next day.
- Borough Secretary Connie Cole reported the following:
- The traffic equipment installed at S.R. 42 and S.R. 487 was complete and is under a 6-month guarantee.
- The Borough received an Invitation to The Chamber of Commerce Annual Holiday Open House at The Nickle Plate Bar & Grill on Dec. 2nd from 5-8 p.m. Ms. Cole reminded Council a vote would be needed if anyone plans to attend.

MAYOR:

- Mayor Todd Burke reported everything continues to go well at the Police Station.
- Trick or Treating went well and some positive feedback was received regarding the Officers walking around handing out candy.
- The Halloween Parade had a lot of Police presence and things went smoothly.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

- Borough Manager Larry Kopp reported the following:
- PPL had a forum on Oct. 22nd, they are looking into doing training for municipalities outside of Allentown which will be good for the Borough to utilize.
- Penn Dot is doing a traffic study on Church Street. It should be done late 2020 early 2021. We are looking to shut it off to all big truck traffic.
- County is updating their Hazard Mitigation Plan. In early 2021 we will have a meeting and update the Borough Plan with the County updates.
- AMP Scholarship is open to the Borough Students right now.

WATER:

- Water Authority Superintendent Cindy Bachman had nothing to report.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:

- Council President Doug Krum read the code enforcement report.

POLICE:

- Mayor Todd Burke read the Chief's monthly report which stated the following:
- During the month of October 2020, the department responded to (169) calls for service.
- Regular maintenance was performed on both vehicles, with Car #1 inspected.
- Both vehicles were calibrated by YS Cowden.
- The department has put extra COVID precautions in place when dealing with suspects.
- Officers participated in Trick or Treat night on the 28th of October. The event was successful and without major incidents.
- The 113th Halloween Parade was a successful event, and the reduced size worked well to follow COVID precautions.
- The department would like to thank the VFW for their generous donation this past month.
- Officers are continuing online mandatory updates. Only two officers have yet to finish the training.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

- A motion was made by Jamie Cotner, 2nd by Victoria Waugh to approve Ordinance 07-2020, amending Catawissa Borough Ordinance 04-2020, Regarding Nuisance and Abandoned Vehicles within the Borough and Providing for Penalties for Violations. All Aye.

UTILITIES:

- Committee Chairperson Corey Yule read the totals of door hangers placed.

PARKS & RECREATION/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

- A motion was made by Jamie Cotner, 2nd by Victoria Waugh to approve logos for the Summer Breeze Concert Series and the Catawissa Community Center. All Aye

PROPERTY & BUILDING MAINTENANCE:

- Councilwoman Victoria Waugh stated nothing to report.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION:

- A motion was made by Jamie Cotner, 2nd by AJ McKenney to discuss a proposed budget for the Borough of Catawissa for the 2021 Fiscal Year. Borough Manager Larry Kopp stated he did what was discussed he cut a little here and a little there and everything balanced out. Councilwoman Victoria Waugh asked if Borough Manager Larry Kopp sat down with Borough Treasurer Nancy Yost to go over the budget. Mr. Kopp replied we emailed back and forth. Councilman Corey Yule stated there is a wall and 4 feet between you, why can't you sit down together. Borough Manager Larry Kopp replied "yes we can sit down and go over it". Councilwoman Victoria Waugh questioned why transfer money from electric to the Capital Fund when the Capital already has an excess and why there is no ledger numbers. Manager Kopp stated little by little we are building the Capital Fund for future years. Mr. Kopp also fielded more questions from Councilwoman Waugh and Council President Krum about the budget. Borough Manager Larry Kopp stated he felt confident with his numbers and ask Council for a vote to advertise if he made the changes.
- A motion was made by AJ McKenney, 2nd by Roy Klinger to approve advertising the proposed 2021 Budget for the Borough of Catawissa. All Aye
- A motion was made by Jamie Cotner, 2nd by Janel Patel to approve advertising Ordinance 08-2020 regarding the proposed tax rate for the Borough of Catawissa for the 2021 Fiscal Year. All Aye Councilwoman Victoria Waugh confirmed with Borough Manager Larry Kopp that all of the money collected for road tax will only be used for roads and road work, nothing else.

- A motion was made by Victoria Waugh, 2nd by Core Yule to discuss the draft Capital Improvements Plan for the Borough of Catawissa. Borough Manager Larry Kopp reported he did the plan for 10 years. It takes a look at the balance at the end of 2020 of the Capital Fund, Liquid Fuels and Eyer Fund and the projects the Borough wants to complete. Mr. Kopp thinks the head of all the departments and Council need to get together and see what is priority. This will provide a blue print moving forward.
- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by Victoria Waugh to discuss annual income from the Eyer Fund. Council President Doug Krum read a letter Borough Treasurer Nancy Yost received from the bank. Borough Manager Larry Kopp recommended the account be looked at every year then a decision be made on what to withdrawal.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:

- A motion was made by Jamie Cotner, 2nd by Victoria Waugh to approve Resolution 2020-14, reducing the Police Officer's Contribution to the Borough's Uniformed Pension Plan for the year 2021. All Aye
- A motion was made by Janel Patel, 2nd by Victoria Waugh to approve a pay rate of \$23.60/hour for Chase Petty pending upon Union approval effective the day of Union approval. All Aye
- A motion was made by Victoria Waugh, 2nd by Corey Yule to approve adding a Corporal position to the Catawissa Police Department. Chief Laidacker gave the reasons to incorporate this position. All Aye
- A motion was made by Corey Yule, 2nd by Roy Klinger to approve preparing a 2-year employment contract for the Zoning & Code Enforcement Officer. Councilwoman Victoria Waugh explained Council would like to get training for the Officer then he would be obligated to stay 2 years, after 2-years he could leave without penalty. All Aye
- A motion was made by Victoria Waugh, 2nd by Corey Yule to discuss face covering policy for Borough Employees. Borough Manager Larry Kopp explained what should be done during business hours, wearing mask, social distancing and temperature check at the start of shifts. A motion was made by Victoria Waugh, 2nd by Jamie Cotner to approve the purchase of (2) digital thermometers to be used at the Borough Hall and Borough Barn. All Aye
- A motion was made by Jamie Cotner, 2nd by Roy Klinger to approve the purchase of (13) \$25.00 gift cards for full-time employees and (8) \$15.00 gift cards for part-time employees for Christmas 2020. All Aye
- Councilwoman Victoria Waugh asked Borough Manager Larry Kopp if Borough Employees will not be riding together in the same vehicle. Council President Dou Krum stated Borough Employees can take (2) separate vehicles when it is possible.
- A motion was made by Victoria Waugh, 2nd by Roy Klinger to approve Borough Manager Larry Kopp to contact cleaning companies to have the Borough Hall sanitized. All Aye Council President Doug Krum asked if our insurance will cover the sanitizing. Borough Manager Larry Kopp stated he would call and find out.
- A motion was made by Victoria Waugh, 2nd by Roy Klinger to discuss the work schedule on Christmas Eve for Borough Employees. After a brief discussion of what was done previous years, a motion was made by Victoria Waugh, 2nd by Roy Klinger to approve Borough Employees having off Christmas Eve Day. All Aye

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- A motion was made by AJ McKenney, 2nd by Roy Klinger to discuss update in research into restoring recycling service to Catawissa Borough. Councilman Roy Klinger stated the figures he got are expensive. After further discussion it was decided to not look into the matter further.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A motion was made by Jamie Cotner, 2nd by Roy Klinger to approve a letter of intent to submit to DCED, Governor's Center for Local Government Services, to request technical assistance for the Regional Police Consolidation Study. All Aye
- A motion was made by Jamie Cotner, 2nd by AJ McKenney to approve Resolution 2020-12, authorizing the Borough to explore a Regional Police Consolidation Study. All Aye
- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by Janel Patel to approve Resolution 2020-13 appointing Board Seats to 3-year terms on the Zoning Hearing Board. Borough Manager Larry Kopp explained we need to appoint one candidate to full seat and appoint one to alternate seat. Councilman AJ McKenney nominated candidate Kevin Ferris to full and Howard Sodergren to alternate. Roll call vote was taken. Doug Krum; Yes, AJ McKenney; Yes, Corey Yule; No, Roy Klinger; Yes, Janel Patel; No, Jamie Cotner; No, Victoria Waugh; No. Motion doesn't carry
A motion was made by Victoria Waugh, 2nd by Janel Patel to nominate Howard Sodergren to full and Kevin Ferris to alternate. 4; Aye, 3; No Motion carries.
- A vote was taken to approve Resolution 2020-13 with Kevin Ferris as full seat and Howard Sodergren as Alternate. All Aye
- Council President Doug Krum asked Borough Manager Larry Kopp if he collected the rest of the money for the Zoning Board Hearing and if he got a stenographer. Mr. Kopp has not collected the money yet because the gentleman has been working out of state and Mr. Gregorowicz will take care of the stenographer.
- A motion was made by Corey Yule, 2nd by Roy Klinger to approve Council Meeting dates for 2021. All Aye
- A motion was made by Victoria Waugh, 2nd by Janel Patel to approve advertising Borough Council Meeting dates for 2021. All Aye

FINANCE PAYMENT OF BILLS

- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by Jamie Cotner 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 if Council would consider looking at the letter Bloomsburg Recycling sent earlier in the year and giving a donation so Catawissa Residents can continue to use their facility. Borough Manager Larry Kopp said he would reach out to Bloomsburg Recycling and go from there.
- Guest Linda Kashner made Council aware that Howard Sodergren cannot hold another elected or appointed position in the municipality. Ms. Kashner asked if there was money in the Eyer Fund for the 2nd phase of the cemetery restoration. Ms. Kashner feels it is a big mistake to put the restoration off for another 2-3 years. Ms. Kashner also asked how the 2nd check that was received from the Eyer Fund could have been from the principal. Borough Manager Larry Kopp stated he had the email from Chris Moonis when this all started. Mr. Kopp stated Council had voted to stop this practice and just take the interest. Ms. Kashner asked how much is being transferred from electric to the General Fund. Council President Doug Krum read the amounts to Ms. Kashner. Ms. Kashner asked how can you advertise the budget when some items need changed. Ms. Kashner asked what the numbers were for the Police Insurance.
- Guest Sue Helwig asked if a revote was going to remove Howard Sodergren from the Zoning Hearing Board.

- A motion was made by AJ McKenney, 2nd by Roy Klinger to remove Howard Sodergren from the Zoning Hearing Board and to appoint Kevin Ferris to the full seat on the Zoning Hearing Board. A roll call vote was taken. Doug Krum; Yes, Corey Yule; Yes, AJ McKenney; Yes, Janel Patel; Nay, Jamie Cotner; Nay, Roy Klinger; Yes, Victoria Waugh; Nay Motion carries
- Guest Nancy Yost Borough Treasurer clarified how she came to her figures for the health insurance. Council President Doug Krum asked Borough Manager Larry Kopp if he was confident at his figure of \$85,000. Mr. Kopp replied “yes he felt confident at \$85,000”.
- Guest Linda Kashner asked Council to please consider doing the 2nd phase of the cemetery restoration. Ms. Kashner expressed the expense will go up if you wait 2 – 3 years and it will be in worse condition. Ms. Kashner feels the Borough owes Mr. Eyer at least that much seeing he is buried there.
- Guest Wayne Kashner expressed his feelings that the Borough Employees could learn to perform basic tombstone resets in the times when the Borough Workers are looking for something to do. Mr. Kashner thinks they can learn to do the work.
- Guest Crystal Stoker Street Superintendent explained she has offered to go and replace some of those tombstones. Ms. Stoker stated she has not gotten any feedback on doing the work. Ms. Stoker said maybe the Water Authority would allow them to borrow equipment that is needed. Guest Cindy Bachman Water Authority Superintendent, stated they would allow Borough Employees to borrow the equipment that is needed.
- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd AJ McKenney to approve Public Works Employees to do cemetery maintenance within reason and to right stones. All Aye
- Guest Linda Kashner asked where the gift cards were coming from. Ms. Kashner stated the gift cards cannot come out of General Fund; they came out of electric in the past. Borough Manager Larry Kopp said they will come out of either electric or sewer.
- Guest Barbara Reese told Council that she sat in on a meeting with the bank a long time ago about the Eyer Fund. They were told the two checks were from extra interest, once the account gets too much interest it is distributed. Council President Doug Krum feels maybe another meeting should be set up with the bank to discuss the Eyer Fund. Borough Manager Larry Kopp was asked to set this up.
- Guest Connie Cole asked Council on behalf of the Catawissa Valley Lions Club for permission to use Eyer Park and adjacent property for the 2nd Annual Food Truck Event on May 22nd 2021. A motion was made by Jamie Cotner, 2nd by AJ McKenney to approve the Lions Club using Eyer Park and adjacent property on May 22nd 2021 for the 2nd Annual Food Truck Event. All Aye
- Guest Connie Cole asked Council for the Lions Club to be included in the Banner Resolution for 2021. A motion was made by Jamie Cotner, 2nd by AJ McKenney to approve including Catawissa Valley Lions Club on the Banner Resolution for 2021. All Aye
- Guest Connie Cole asked Council if they would donate the electric for The Lions Club 2nd Annual Food Truck Event 2021. A motion was made by Jamie Cotner, 2nd by AJ McKenney to approve donating the electric for the Lions Club 2nd Annual Food Truck Event of 2021. All Aye
- Guest Connie Cole asked for clarification that the Borough Hall was closed until it is sanitized.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

MEETING ADJOURNED

Submitted by:

Connie M. Cole
Borough Secretary