

CATAWISSA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MONDAY December 7, 2020 - 6:30 p.m.

An Executive Session took place before the meeting at 6:20 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER:

- The meeting was called to order by Council President, Doug Krum.

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 Corey Yule to dispense reading of and approve minutes of the previous month's meeting. All Aye

Mayor:

- Mayor Todd Burke read the Proclamations for Southern Columbia's Girls Soccer Team and Southern Columbia's High School Football Team. The Stine's thanked everyone on behalf of the Girls Soccer Team for the Proclamation. Coach Jim Roth thanked everyone for the recognition and acknowledgement on behalf of the High School Football Team.
- Mayor Todd Burke announced he will be meeting with Eliza Fenstermacher and Hailey Conner on Thursday December 10th to present the thank you letters and certificates to them in person
- Borough Manager Larry Kopp read the thank you letters that will be presented to Hailey Conner and Eliza Fenstermacher. Eliza and Troup leader Sherry Fenstermacher thanked Council and Mr. Kopp for giving the girls the opportunity to help the community.

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Guest Wayne Kashner read a statement pointing out the terms for the Zoning Hearing Board were incorrect on the website which this information was taken from Resolution 2020-13. Mr. Kashner read off what each member's terms should be and suggested the Secretary keep a log of the members terms to make sure each appointee is on the agenda each year. Mr. Kashner also expressed that he feels it is an embarrassment for the incorrect information be placed on the Borough website.
- Guest Linda Kashner had several questions about the proposed 2021 Budget. Ms. Kashner pointed out many discrepancies within the proposed budget. Ms. Kashner asked what the \$1300 in recycling was for when we no longer have recycling. Council President Doug Krum stated Council was thinking of giving a donation to Bloom Recycling. Mr. Krum stated it is on the agenda to talk about later. Ms. Kashner also questioned if the budgeted amount for part-time police officers for the year is enough. Mayor Todd Burke spoke on the matter of coverage and having the 5th full-time officer to alleviate needing the part-time officers. Ms. Kashner asked Chief Laidacker if he expected to get any over time in 2021. Chief Laidacker stated he may get some over time. Ms. Kashner asked what the salary would be for the Corporal position? Council President Doug Krum stated he didn't have the information in front of him and asked Borough Manager Larry Kopp if he had the information and he stated he wanted to check with Borough Treasurer Nancy Yost before he gave Ms. Kashner any information. Ms. Kashner asked Council President Doug Krum if they will be needing field dirt because there is no line item for it in the budget. Council President Krum stated no they won't be needing it. Ms. Kashner asked what is the \$37,000 in Eyer Park Fund for. Borough Manager Larry Kopp stated \$7,500 is to trim trees at Quaker Meeting House and \$30,000 is a match for a potential grant for Eyer Park Development. Councilman Corey Yule thanked Ms. Kashner for her comments and for her points on those budget issues.

- Attorney Anthony McDonald suggested Council invite Linda Kashner to be on the committee next year for the budget. Attorney McDonald feels Ms. Kashner certainly knows her budget for the Borough.
- Guest Sharon Krum asked Borough Manager Larry Kopp if the sink for the Community Center was purchased yet. Mr. Kopp stated the sink would be purchased this week. Ms. Krum confirmed Mr. Kopp received the message from Treasurer Nancy Yost.
- Guest Patsy Hess expressed her feelings on Officer Krape having ample time to find a home within the required distance for his position. Multiple Councilmembers gave their opinion that it is difficult to find housing during the pandemic. Ms. Hess also asked about the Parking Ordinance for South Street Parking. Borough Manager Larry Kopp explained the Ordinance is to provide two parking spots for the Fire Department's Emergency Personnel only.
- Guest Sue Helwig thanked Linda Kashner for her attention to detail with the budget. Ms. Helwig expressed her concern with the decision making with the budget. Ms. Helwig's biggest concern was with the street repair and wanted to know why a tax is being added and the Borough can't stay within the Liquid Fuel Funds the Borough receives. Ms. Helwig continued with other questions regarding the rising costs of the police department, electric and looking at ways to cut cost. Councilwoman Victoria Waugh, Mayor Burke, Councilman Doug Krum and Councilwoman Jamie Cotner explained that our Police Officers are one of the lowest paid in our area and the benefits of having our own Police Department with 24/7 coverage. Ms. Helwig asked if Council would look into having Hillside Village help pay for some of the Police Budget. Chief Laidacker stated it is illegal to do that. Ms. Helwig feels the residents shouldn't incur any more costs. Ms. Helwig asked again where the concern for the streets came from because it was not on the survey. Councilwoman Victoria Waugh explained the street tax was to build up funds to prepare for the future.
- Guest Patsy Hess asked what happened with the 15% tax increase. Council President Doug Krum explained the 1 mill increase for street tax is 15% of 6.47 mill tax.
- Guest Cindy Bachman made a request that Council not impose the 1 mill tax increase and gave suggestions for using the liquid fuels to fund smaller street projects.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Borough Secretary Connie Cole read the thank you note received from the Halloween Parade Committee.
- Borough Secretary Connie Cole also reminded Council Members that NIMS training must be completed by December 31st, 2020.

MAYOR:

- Mayor Burke reported the Police Department is doing good and the new officers are doing well.
- Mayor Todd Burke expressed his concerns that cutting police hours or going with the State Police coverage would be devastating to the community.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

- Borough Manager Larry Kopp reported the following:
- Had a meeting for the Annual Amp Report and will give a full report at a later time.
- Church Street Study is complete. Trucks over 33' will not be permitted down Church St. and or make a left onto Mill St. Signage will be posted in the next couple of months.

WATER:

- Water Authority Superintendent Cindy Bachman reported they are keeping tabs on the dry hydrant and it is looking good so far.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:

- Council President Doug Krum read the code enforcement report.

POLICE:

- Chief Laidacker read the monthly report which stated the following:
- During the month of November 2020, the department responded to (204) calls for service.
- Under advisement of the District Attorney's Office the department remains under COVID precautions when dealing with suspects, such as temperature readings and recording suspects symptoms and temperatures. This also includes screening of officers as they report for duty.
- The 2021 officer schedule has been completed and was submitted to the Mayor for review.
- The Chief assisted with the promotion testing within the department as requested by the Civil Service Commission.
- Officers McNelis and Krape will be attending DUI Breath Test Operator Class during the month of December.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by Janel Patel to accept Paul Allen's resignation as Emergency Management Coordinator with the Borough. All Aye
- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by AJ McKenney to advertise the open Emergency Management Coordinator position. All Aye

UTILITIES:

- Committee Chairperson Corey Yule read the account balances.
- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by Janel Patel to appoint Gene Powlus as our primary Sewage Enforcement Officer and Chris Bower as alternate Sewage Enforcement Officer as well as the SEO Fee Schedule for 2021. All Aye
- A motion was made by AJ McKenney, 2nd by Roy Klinger to discuss the 2020 Power Supply Update from AMP (American Municipal Power). Borough Manager Larry Kopp gave a brief presentation on the cost of electric transmission fees going up and this needs to be taken into account for future budgets.

PARKS & RECREATION/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

- A motion was made by Jamie Cotner, 2nd by Corey Yule to discuss the quarterly Borough Newsletter. A motion was made by Victoria Waugh, 2nd by Corey Yule to stop sending out the newsletter. All Aye

PROPERTY & BUILDING MAINTENANCE:

- A motion was made by Victoria Waugh, 2nd by Janel Patel to discuss options for protecting the home at 126 N. 3rd Street from truck damage. After a discussion of options, a motion was made by Victoria Waugh, 2nd by Corey Yule to approve a fixed post on the corner to protect the home at 126 N. 3rd Street without the post impeding on the handicap ramp. All Aye

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION:

- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by Jamie Cotner to review the proposed budget and have it prepared for January 4th, 2021. All Aye
- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by Jamie Cotner to readvertise the proposed 2021 Budget. All Aye
- The motion to approve Ordinance 08-2020 regarding the tax rate for the Borough of Catawissa for the 2021 Fiscal Year died due to lack of a motion.
- A motion was made by Corey Yule, 2nd by Roy Klinger to discuss reinvesting Electric Fund CDs #42676 (\$250,000) and CDs #5000848319/8560 (\$150,000). Borough Manager Larry Kopp gave

interest rates and the best options. A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by Victoria Waugh to renew all the CDs at First Columbia Bank & Trust for .45% interest. All Aye

- A motion was made by Jamie Cotner, 2nd by Janel Patel to discuss the Eyer Fund. Borough Manager Larry Kopp suggested to the Finance committee that a policy be drafted so there are guidelines to be followed and everyone can make intelligent decisions moving forward.
- A motion was made by AJ McKenney, 2nd by Roy Klinger to discuss interfund transfers and additional payments prior to the end of FY 2020. Borough Manager Kopp explained it looks like all accounts will be in the black, but a better picture would be had at the end of the month. So, these matters can be discussed then.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:

- A motion was made by Victoria Waugh, 2nd by Jamie Cotner to appoint Officer Jason Hayes to the position of Corporal with a 9-month probationary period and a pay increase to begin January 1st, 2021. All Aye
- A motion was made by Corey Yule, 2nd by Victoria Waugh to discuss the 2-year letter of agreement for Bob Jones as Code & Zoning Enforcement Officer. Councilwoman Victoria Waugh suggested changing the first line to read “under the leadership of Borough Manager to include and/or Borough Council. All Aye to approve the 2-year letter of agreement for Bob Jones as Code & Zoning Officer with changes suggested by Victoria Waugh.
- A motion was made by Jamie Cotner, 2nd by Corey Yule to approve a 12-month extension for Officer David Krape meeting residency requirements for employment. All Aye

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- A motion was made by Corey Yule, 2nd by AJ McKenney to discuss a donation to the Bloomsburg Recycling Center for the use by Catawissa Borough residents. Attorney Anthony McDonald asked if we had a letter or email stating if the Borough donates \$1,300 Borough residents can use the recycling. Borough Manager Larry Kopp stated he had an email he received in recent weeks basically stating that. A motion was made by Corey Yule, 2nd by Victoria Waugh to approve donating \$1,300 to Bloomsburg for the use of the Recycling Center by Catawissa Borough residents if we receive a letter or email of agreement. All Aye

NEW BUSINESS:

- A motion was made by Jamie Cotner, 2nd by Janel Patel to discuss proposed sign ordinance for the Borough of Catawissa. Attorney Anthony McDonald stated the Borough already has a sign ordinance what are you looking to add. Borough Manager Larry Kopp replied this is the ordinance you gave me about the size of signs. Attorney Anthony McDonald stated this applies to the case the Borough had earlier this year. Attorney Anthony McDonald suggested Council think about it because the Borough ended up in court. Attorney McDonald asked Council for a sign ordinance he can work with. A motion was made by Jamie Cotner, 2nd by AJ McKenney to approve Ordinance 07-2020. All Aye
- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by Janel Patel to approve Ordinance 09-2020 regarding an authorized parking zone for Catawissa Fire Company personnel on South Street. Council President Doug Krum asked Borough Manager Larry Kopp to explain where the parking is exactly. Mr. Kopp explained there will be (2) parking spaces on South Street, Fire Hall side of the street in front of the Fire Hall entrance. All Aye
- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by Jamie Cotner to approve Ordinance 10-2020 regarding an authorized parking zone for Catawissa Fire Company Emergency Personnel on South Street. All Aye
- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by Jamie Cotner to appoint Anthony McDonald as Borough Solicitor for 2021-2022 with the same rate as the last 18 years. All Aye

- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by AJ McKenney to approve Siana Law, LLP, as the Borough Labor Attorneys for 2021 with no fee increase. All Aye
- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by Jamie Cotner to discuss Catawissa Hose Company #1 non-emergency activities for 2021. Council reviewed the list and no questions were presented.

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

- Mayor Todd Burke asked if there was anything that had to be done about the tax rate for 2021. Borough Secretary Connie Cole stated a resolution needed to be passed to keep the tax rate the same for 2021.
- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by Janel Patel to approve resolution 2020-15 regarding the tax rate for 2021. All Aye
- Guest Barbara Reese asked if we are still paying the internet connection for the cameras at the borough barn. Council President Doug Krum, Councilman Roy Klinger and Mayor Todd Burke stated the cameras were removed. Borough Secretary Connie Cole gave the correction that there is still (1) camera remaining at the old recycling spot and the Borough still pays for the internet connection. Ms. Cole also explained the Public Works departments just got computers that also use that internet connection to email vendors and such. Councilman Corey Yule asked if we pay a monthly fee or did we purchase the cameras. Chief Laidacker stated we did purchase the cameras. Ms. Reese asked if the camera can be utilized somewhere else. Councilman Corey Yule explained we would need internet connection wherever the camera is moved to.
- Guest Linda Kashner read the Borough Code stating the budget must be adopted no later than December 31st. Ms. Kashner also read Borough Code 1001 stating Borough Council only reorganizes on even years.
- Borough Secretary Connie Cole explained Council will need to rescind the motion to review and move the budget to January 4th, 2021 meeting. Councilman Roy Klinger rescinded his motion and Councilwoman Jamie Cotner rescinded her second to review the proposed budget and have it prepared for January 4th, 2021.
- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd Victoria Waugh to have a Special Meeting on Tuesday December 22nd, 2020 at 6p.m. Council President Doug Krum asked Linda Kashner if she would be interested in joining the Finance Committee to go over the budget for 2021. Ms. Kashner stated she would like to talk to Council President Doug Krum about this in private.
- A motion was made by Janel Patel, 2nd by Jamie Cotner to advertise the proposed budget for 2021 Fiscal Year. All Aye
- Guest Nicole Slusser asked if the sign ordinance was advertised. Council President Doug Krum asked Borough Manager Larry Kopp if the ordinance was advertised. Borough Manager Larry Kopp responded no it wasn't.
- Councilwoman Jamie Cotner rescinded her motion, Councilman AJ McKenney rescinded his second to approve Ordinance 07-2020.
- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by AJ McKenney to table Ordinance 07-2020 regarding signs. All Aye
- A motion was made by Jamie Cotner, 2nd by Core Yule to advertise Ordinance 07-2020 regarding signs. All Aye Council President Doug Krum thanked Nicole Slusser for catching the ordinance not being advertised.
- Guest Cindy Bachman thanked Council for not imposing additional tax on the Borough.
- Guest Sue Helwig seconded Ms. Bachman's comment and thanked Council for listening.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

MEETING ADJOURNED

Submitted by:

Connie M. Cole
Borough Secretary