

**CATAWISSA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**MONDAY March 8th, 2021 - 6:30 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, Jamie Cotner, Victoria Waugh, Borough Manager Larry Kopp, Attorney Anthony McDonald. Via Zoom: Mayor Todd Burke, Roy Klingner  
Absent: Janel Patel
- Council President Doug Krum announced an Executive Session was held Sunday February 28<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 p.m.

READING OF MINUTES:

- A motion was made by Victoria Waugh, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jamie Cotner to dispense reading of and approve minutes of the previous month's meeting. All Aye

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Guest Barbara Reese spoke of concerns regarding parking within the borough and installing bump outs. Ms. Reese also spoke of a fountain being installed at the Opera House.
- Guest Jason Fitzgerald gave updates on pending grant applications.
- Guest Sue Helwig reported technical difficulty getting into the meeting.
- Guest Cindy Bachman asked if Council voted on the designs Peters did for the grants. Ms. Bachman also questioned the grant amount that was applied for. Ms. Bachman inquired how Peters was paid.
- Guest Sue Helwig expressed her concerns with the motions on the agenda for approval and residents not having information on the motions before any votes. Ms. Helwig also spoke of the fountain being installed at the Opera House.
- Attorney Anthony McDonald encouraged Council to post resolutions on the website if they are on the agenda. Attorney McDonald also suggested Council not make taxpayers of the Borough fill out RTK Forms for public information.
- Guest Kay Nazarchyk questioned what Resolution 2021-04 was about. Attorney Anthony McDonald read said resolution. Borough Manager Larry Kopp explained the Resolution is intended to help the Landlord.
- Guest Linda Kashner questioned if the 2-year agreement between the Borough and Larson Design allows for Peters to be used for engineering purposes. Ms. Kashner also questioned the electronic vote on the agenda for approval.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Brough Secretary Connie Cole reported the Borough received notice the Costar Contract for August 2021 – July 2022 was accepted.
- Ms. Cole received notice from PennDOT that Resolution 2021-02 was denied due to an error.
- A motion was made by Victoria Waugh, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jamie Cotner to fix and resubmit Resolution 2021-02 to PennDOT.
- Council President Doug Krum read Larry Kopp's resignation. A motion was made by Victoria Waugh, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Corey Yule to accept the resignation of Larry Kopp effective April 2, 2021. All Aye
- A motion was made by Victoria Waugh, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Corey Yule to accept Larry Kopp's General Release. All Aye

#### MAYOR:

- Mayor Todd Burke expressed his concerns with the bump outs with the streetscaping project.
- Mayor Burke spoke of the concerns with background noise of the meeting.
- Mayor Burke spoke of the positive news article on the Police Officers and what great a job the officers are doing.

#### MANAGER'S REPORT:

- Borough Manager Larry Kopp highlighted items on his manager's report:
- Manager Kopp spoke with Kelly Shroyer, she will be trapping cats this weekend.
- Manager Kopp spoke of the need for volunteers to plant and maintain the flower beds. Volunteers can donate the flowers or the Borough can purchase them.
- Manager Kopp reported some roof damage at the Community Center from the snow. Contractors are lined up for quotes. An insurance claim has been filed.
- Manager Kopp reported the leaching of water at the back wall of the Community Center. Mr. Kopp suggested talking to the insurance about the leaching.
- Manager Kopp reported the new sink for the Senior Center will be installed in April.
- Manager Kopp reported agents from AARP will be using the Community Center every Wednesday until the end of tax season.
- Manager Kopp reported the electric billing upgrade is still ongoing.
- Councilwoman Victoria Waugh, Council President Doug Krum and Councilman Corey Yule thanked Borough Secretary Connie Cole and Streets Superintendent Crystal Stoker for the great job they did organizing the Community Center.
- Councilwoman Victoria Waugh thanked Councilman Corey Yule for donating his time to hang the tapestries at the Community Center.

#### WATER:

- Water Authority Superintendent Cindy Bachman reported the dry hydrant had to be blown out with the compressor. Ms. Bachman stated maybe public works would want to meet once the weather breaks to discuss if it needs any further cleaning.

#### CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:

- Council President Doug Krum read the code enforcement report.

#### POLICE:

- Chief Laidacker read the monthly report which stated the following:
- The SUV was involved in a minor crash, but only sustained cosmetic damage. The report was forwarded to the insurance company via Borough Manager.
- The department continued to abide by COVID restrictions as permitted.
- The copier was repaired.
- The Chief and Officer McNelis completed the State Police Audit of the computer systems and all went well.
- Officer Kistner attended search and seizure training.
- Three of the newest officers are scheduled to attend ENRADD training on the 25<sup>th</sup> of March.

#### PUBLIC SAFETY:

- A motion was made by Victoria Waugh, 2<sup>nd</sup> by AJ McKenney to discuss the Police Regionalization Study Final Report. Borough Manager Larry Kopp reported the Police Study is posted on the Borough website. Chief Laidacker spoke of the concerns and benefits of going with the regionalization.

- Council President Doug Krum spoke of the sink holes on S. First Street Superintendent Crystal Stoker found. After a discussion, a motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jamie Cotner to purchase a truck load of dirt not exceeding the amount of \$1,200. All Aye

#### UTILITIES:

- A motion was made by Corey Yule, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Victoria Waugh to approve Resolution 2021-04, establishing a policy for final billing procedure for property owners whose tenants did not pay the final bill. Guest Sue Helwig expressed her concerns with the Resolution. Roll call vote was taken. Victoria Waugh; Nay, AJ McKenney; Nay, Doug Krum; Aye, Corey Yule; Nay, Jamie Cotner; Aye, Roy Klinger; Nay Motion did not carry
- Motion to Approve Resolution 2021-05, establishing policies for death of utility account holders died for no motion made.
- A motion was made by Victoria Waugh, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Corey Yule to discuss late fees on late or undelivered Catawissa Borough utility bills. Council President Doug Krum read line items #4 & #5 that are printed on the back of electric bills each month.
- A motion was made by AJ McKenney, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Victoria Waugh to discuss Ordinance, Application and Agreement for interconnection of distributed energy resources. Borough Manager Larry Kopp gave the highlight of the ordinance and the need for the ordinance.
- A motion was made by Victoria Waugh, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Corey Yule to discuss Vision Metering's LoRa WAN Advanced Metering Infrastructure System. Borough Manager Larry Kopp spoke of the benefits of Vision Metering. Mr. Kopp feels Council should keep Vision Metering in mind for the future.

#### PARKS & RECREATION/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

- A motion was made by AJ McKenney, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jamie Cotner to approve Resolution 2021-06, approving the submission of a Multimodal Grant of up to \$3 Million to the Commonwealth Financing Authority. All Aye
- A motion was made by Jamie Cotner, 2<sup>nd</sup> AJ McKenney to approve Resolution 2021-07, approving the submission of a multimodal Transportation Fund Grant up to \$3 Million to the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. All Aye

#### PROPERTY & BUILDING MAINTENANCE:

- A motion was made by Victoria Waugh, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Corey Yule to discuss a Phase I Environmental Study at the former Melick Aquafeed property at 139 South 1<sup>st</sup> Street. Borough Manager Larry Kopp provided a map for Council to see the property lines for the Melick and railroad properties.

#### FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION:

- A motion was made by AJ McKenney, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jamie Cotner to discuss the exit conference findings from the Auditor General's Compliance Audit for the period 1/12/2017 to 12/21/2020. Borough Manager Larry Kopp stated the Auditor did not find anything wrong. Manager Kopp said Treasurer Nancy Yost did a great job. All Aye
- A motion was made by Corey Yule, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Roy Klinger to discuss the December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020 Financial Statements for the Non-Uniformed and Uniformed Pension Plans. Borough Manager Larry Kopp gave a highlight of the Financial Statements. Attorney Anthony McDonald asked if there is a plan to make up for the deficit that has happened over the years.
- Borough Secretary Connie Cole brought to Council's attention that in the exit findings from the Auditor General's audit for the Pensions, a resolution must be done each year for Uniformed and Non-Uniformed contribution rates that have been reduced or eliminated. Ms. Cole stated a resolution was not done for Non-Uniformed contributions for 2021.
- A motion was made by Corey Yule, 2<sup>nd</sup> Victoria Waugh to discuss the February Account update from 1<sup>st</sup> Columbia Bank and Trust for Eyer Fund. Borough Manager Larry Kopp gave a brief

review of the annual report on the Eyer Fund. Manager Kopp informed Council there is \$57,000 that can be taken out this year.

#### PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:

- A motion was made by Victoria Waugh, 2<sup>nd</sup> by AJ McKenney to approve advertising for a part-time seasonal worker for the Street Department for Summer 2021 starting May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021. All Aye
- A motion was made by Victoria Waugh, 2<sup>nd</sup> Roy Klinger to discuss training/classes for Electric Department personnel in 2021. After a brief discussion, a motion was by Victoria Waugh, 2<sup>nd</sup> by AJ McKenney to approve Chase Petty to attend Transformer School with a cost of \$2684.64. All Aye

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A motion was made by Corey Yule, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jamie Cotner to discuss the status of 102-104 Main Street. Borough Manager Larry Kopp reported the property was inspected by BIU, in attendance was Code Enforcement Officer Bob Jones, Borough Manager Larry Kopp and Attorney Pete Abraczinskas. BIU Inspector Matt feels the building is structurally sound and 102 Main St has a few safety issues that must be taken care of now. Manager Kopp was informed the property owner may be willing to donate the property to the Borough by the Property Owner's Attorney Abraczinskas.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

- A motion was made by Jamie Cotner, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Victoria Waugh to discuss vacating Bank Ave. from Main St. to Quinn Ave. After a discussion, Attorney Anthony McDonald explained the procedure that has to be followed to vacate Bank Ave. Council needs a plan from Woody Heaps before vacating can move forward.
- A motion was made by AJ McKenney, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Roy Klinger to approve the use of Troutman Baseball Field by a 13u Travel Baseball Team. All Aye
- Secretary Connie Cole asked if the team is required to turn in proof of insurance. Council President Doug Krum stated yes.
- A motion was made by Corey Yule, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Victoria Waugh to approve the electronic vote of 2/9/2021 to purchase a Grasshopper Lawnmower for \$13,094.70. All Aye
- A motion was made by Jamie Cotner, 2<sup>nd</sup> by AJ McKenney to approve the Catawissa Valley Lion's Club use of the carnival grounds in lieu of 1<sup>st</sup> Street for their Food truck event. All Aye
- A motion was made by Victoria Waugh, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Corey Yule to appoint Connie Cole as Right to Know Officer. All Aye
- Secretary Connie Cole mentioned the findings from the Auditor for the Pension COA. Auditor's recommendation was to look at the Resolution from 1996 naming the COA and maybe updating the resolution.

#### FINANCE PAYMENT OF BILLS

- A motion was made by AJ McKenney, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 Barbara Reese thanked Linda and Wayne Kashner for their donation of the flowers and maintaining the flower beds at the Borough Hall, Senior Center, Eyer Park for many years.
- Guest Barbara Reese voiced her concerns with vacating Bank Ave. for one person.
- Guest Barbara Reese requested a public meeting if and when any funds are obtained for the Main Streetscaping Project.

- Councilwoman Victoria Waugh expressed she was upset with the article in the newspaper stating the Office Staff was reluctant to waive late fees. Ms. Waugh explained the office staff does not have the authority or power to waive late fees. The decision of waiving fees is the responsibility of the Borough Manager or Council.
- Guest Cindy Bachman asked what the decision was with the Melick property Study. She couldn't hear. Council President Krum stated Council asked last month if the property was in railroad right of way and Manager Larry provided a map this month, no other decision was made.
- Guest Cindy Bachman spoke about plowing, access for fire trucks and run off issues if Bank Ave is vacated.
- Guest Cindy Bachman inquired if the Greenway Trail Grant is obtained can the Kayak plans be changed after we get the grant.
- Council President Doug Krum spoke to Borough Manager Larry Kopp about Manager Kopp giving Council President Doug Krum and Councilwoman Victoria Waugh's names to the newspaper concerning going after Mr. Ron Fritz in regards to his sign and the case. Then Council President Doug Krum receiving an email the next day from Mr. Kopp stating no one told him to go after Ron Fritz. Borough Manager Larry Kopp responded that he would not discuss the matter.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

MEETING ADJOURNED

Submitted by:

Connie M. Cole  
Borough Secretary