

CATAWISSA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY May 10th, 2021 - 6:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER:

- The meeting was called to order by Council Vice President, Corey Yule.

ROLL CALL:

- Present were: Corey Yule, AJ McKenney, Jamie Cotner, Victoria Waugh, Janel Patel, Attorney Anthony McDonald, Via Zoom: Roy Klinger Absent: Doug Krum, Mayor Todd Burke
- Secretary Connie Cole reported Mayor Burke wanted everyone to know he was absent due to attending Act 235 training.

READING OF MINUTES:

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

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Guest Sue Helwig read a letter she submitted to Council regarding the closing of Bank Ave.
- Guest Barbara Reese inquired about changing the speed limit on the streets to 25 mph and the limit being posted. Council Vice President Corey Yule stated he would look into it.
- Guest Barbara Reese asked if there was going to be a Kids Day this year. Councilman AJ McKenney stated there would be a Kids Day on June 12th and Pastor Mike is being worked on getting vendors.
- Guest Daniel Johnson read a statement regarding his mother receiving a 2nd notice of noncompliance with Ordinance 03-2020. Mr. Johnson explained Ms. Johnson has not owned property within the Borough for many years.
- Guest Daniel Johnson asked about the plaque that was supposed to be placed for Ben Hollingshead had it ever been done or was it forgotten again.
- Guest Vito Clemente voiced his concerned about Bank Ave & Fox Ave being closed until Nov 30th 2021. Mr. Clemente feels both businesses should be treated equally or both go back to pre-pandemic conditions.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Brough Secretary Connie Cole reported the Borough received a 2020 PIRMA Risk Management and Safety Award.
- Phoenix Tower provided a new sublease to Dish.
- Electronic copies of the Compliance Audit Reports for Non-Uniform and Police Pension were received.
- Kayak Launch Project Grant was not funded.
- Received notice from Jason Fitzgerald the Borough will be receiving \$145,000 from the American Rescue Plan.
- Mayor Burke received a thank you card from Lucille Faux and Joanne Blass for taking the ladies to Woody's place to celebrate Ms. Faux's birthday.

MAYOR:

- Nothing to report

WATER:

- Nothing to report.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:

- Council Vice President Corey Yule read the code enforcement report.

POLICE:

- Chief Laidacker reported for the month of April the department responded to (262) calls for service. Chief Laidacker read his report which stated the following:
- The SUV repairs are under way. We expect the vehicle back by the week of the 10th
- Once the SUV is back it will need brake work.
- The work on the sedan was completed. We need to take it back once the SUV is finished due to recall work.
- The department continued to abide by COVID restrictions as permitted.
- The department received two free computer monitors from Bloom University.
- We participated in the opening ceremony for Catawissa Baseball.
- We assisted in an Easter Parade for a local church on the 4th of April.
- Cpl. Hayes and Officer Krape attended Glock Armorer class and received certification.
- Cpl. Hayes attended a training seminar on the use of the new digital radios.

PUBLIC WORKS:

- Submitted reports in agenda packets.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

- Nothing to report.

UTILITIES:

- A motion was made by Victoria Waugh, 2nd by AJ McKenney to approve the electronic vote on 4/26/2021 for the approval to purchase a climbing belt and accessories for Tyler Torres not to exceed the cost \$2400.00. All Aye
- A motion was made by Victoria Waugh, 2nd by Jamie Cotner to discuss installation of 25 roof top solar panels at 136 Railroad St. Borough Solicitor Anthony McDonald suggested a Solar Ordinance be put in place. Council is going to do some more research.
- A motion was made by Victoria Waugh, 2nd by Roy Klinger to discuss a generator being installed at the T-Mobile Cell Tower located at 221 Fox Ave. A brief discussion was had about decimal ratings and generator exhaust.
- A motion was made by Victoria Waugh, 2nd by Roy Klinger to discuss replacing the lights on the Bluff. Two proposals for solar powered lights were submitted. The first option is to purchase everything new at a cost of \$626.59. The 2nd option is purchasing a prepurchased panel with everything else new at a cost of \$473.69. Council Vice President Corey Yule is going to get details on the pre-purchased panel to see if the panel was ever installed before and exact condition.

PARKS & RECREATION/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

- A motion was made by Janel Patel, 2nd by Jamie Cotner to discuss Senior Day. Councilman AJ McKenney started a conversation about whether to still have Senior Day. Suggestions on some safety measures that could be taken to have Senior Day was given.
- A motion was made by Jamie Cotner, 2nd by Victoria Waugh to discuss a Claude Bourbon Concert. Councilman AJ McKenney stated to book Claude it will be at a cost of \$900. Guest Barbara Reese asked if any grant money was obtained. Council Vice President Corey Yule suggested seeing if any grant money was obtained before contacting Claude Bourbon.

PROPERTY & BUILDING MAINTENANCE:

- Council Vice President Corey Yule reported during the repair of the Sewer Plant roof more damage was found. Water-soaked insulation and deterioration was found under the rubber roof. Stine Construction stopped work until further direction was given. Council Vice President Corey Yule asked Bob Dunkelberger to get (3) written quotes on repairing the roof in its entirety. Bob Dunkelberger asked what does that do to the contract already done with Stine Construction. Mr. Yule stated Mr. Stine would be paid for the work he has done thus far.

FINANCE:

- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by AJ McKenney to approve reinvesting the \$350,000 CD with the best interest rate offered. All Aye
- Council Vice President Corey Yule reported the new Dump Truck is ready for delivery. Mr. Yule stated financing had to be looked into for the dump truck. The total cost of the truck is \$79,459.98 and \$1150 per month was placed in the budget for the dump truck. 1st Columbia Bank & Trust has a 6-year loan at an interest rate of 2.75% which puts the monthly payment above the monthly budgeted amount. If the first 4-months of budgeted payments in the amount of \$4598 is paid directly to the dealership this will bring the loan down to \$74,900 which will put the monthly payment below the budgeted amount of \$1150. A motion was made by Victoria Waugh, 2nd by Jamie Cotner to approve a loan from 1st Columbia Bank & Trust for \$74,900 and making the first (4) months payments in the amount of \$4598.00 directly to the dealership. All Aye
- A motion was made by Victoria Waugh, 2nd by Janel Patel to approve the check signers for the Borough can sign the loan and bank documentation for the loan. All Aye

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:

- Nothing to report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- A motion was made by Jamie Cotner, 2nd by Janel Patel to discuss Woody's Place & Vito's use of Bank Ave. & Fox Ave. Councilman Vice President Corey Yule stated Pastor Mike submitted a letter for the vacating of Bank Ave. Borough Solicitor Anthony McDonald suggested a good place to start is a good idea to treat people the same. No matter what the fire company or anyone else says it looks good to treat businesses equally. Fire Chief Dale Hendricks gave a summarization of the conversations had with both businesses regarding fire protection with the alleys being closed for both businesses. Borough Solicitor again stated to treat people equally and fairly. Council Vice President Corey Yule stated he agrees with Borough Solicitor McDonald that everyone should be treated equally and fairly. After some more discussion it was agreed to let tables the way they are because it is fair.
- A motion was made by AJ McKenney, 2nd by Jamie Cotner to discuss vacating Bank Ave. Council Vice President Corey Yule stated a letter was sent to the former Borough Manager Larry Kopp from the Church to state their reasoning for wanting to close the alley. Councilwoman Jamie Cotner asked if the alley is not vacated can the alley still close for events Woody has. Borough Solicitor Anthony McDonald suggested a permit would be a good idea to close the alley for events and also anyone serving alcohol needs a permit and insurance rider in case anyone gets hurt. Attorney McDonald reminded Council the Borough does have an ordinance stating no alcohol is allowed on public property. Attorney McDonald also stated the ordinance would be enforceable by the Code Enforcement Officer and not the police department. Councilwoman Victoria Waugh expressed that she would like to hear from all the residents regarding vacating Bank Ave., not just a few residents. Ms. Waugh listed the items they did for other businesses in town. Borough Solicitor Anthony McDonald explained the process of vacating an alley. Councilman Roy Klinger suggested Woody's & the Church collect data to show how much more they can do with vacating the alley. Council Vice President Corey Yule suggested putting put a survey to the residents to get feedback on vacating the alley.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by Victoria Waugh to discuss adding a warranty clause to the Borough bidding process for building and repair work. A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by Victoria Waugh to add the 1-year warranty clause to our bid process. All Aye
- A motion was made by Victoria Waugh, 2nd by Roy Klinger to approve the electronic vote taken on April 17, 2021 for the repair of the police sedan water pump not to exceed the cost of \$1900. All Aye
- A motion was made by Victoria Waugh, 2nd by Jamie Cotner to approve the rental of a water cooler at the cheapest option for the Police Station with monthly payments coming from the police budget. All Aye

- A motion was made by AJ McKenney, 2nd by Roy Klinger to discuss Robert Dunkelberger getting bids for the sewer plant repairs. A motion was made by AJ McKenney, 2nd by Roy Klinger to approve Bob Dunkelberger to get bids for Sewer Plant repairs. All Aye
- A motion was made by Victoria Waugh, 2nd by Jamie Cotner to approve changes to the employee handbook. 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 Linda Kashner asked where the money was coming from for the police car cam. Councilwoman Victoria Waugh is going to get back to Ms. Kashner with that information.
- Guest Linda Kashner asked why the police department has 118 hours in over time this month. Chief Laidacker stated there was covid issues with employees and coverage needed. Ms. Kashner informed Council the police salaries are over by \$11,388 and if this keeps up the police salaries will be over budget by \$34,000 by the end of the year.
- Guest Pat Hess shared her feelings that the tables in Bank Ave. are not utilized as much as Council thinks they are.
- Guest Daniel Johnson spoke of the warranty clause added for the work and repair work being done. Mr. Johnson asked if a warranty is going to be asked for on the purchase of used equipment as in the solar panels discussed for the use on the Bluff. Council Vice President Corey Yule is looking into the used solar panels before any purchase is made. Mr. Yule stated the condition of the panels needs to be looked into before any purchase is made.
- Guest Barbara Reese asked when the work is going to get started on the Greenwood Cemetery. Council Vice President Corey Yule is going to look into the matter and get back to Ms. Reese.
- Guest Linda Kashner stated Public Works Employee Crystal Stoker stated Public Works could start on phase 2.
- Guest Barbara Reese asked if the Quaker Meeting House will be open this year. Council Vice President Corey Yule stated he would look into it.
- Guest Dan Johnson stated he contacted Crystal Stoker and gave her a contact for someone who can give them guidance on any questions they have with the cemetery work.
- Guest Mike Lester asked where it stands with the businesses using the alley. Council Vice President Corey Yule confirmed the tables do not have to be removed or put away at end of business day. Mr. Yule stated at this time everything will remain as it is.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

MEETING ADJOURNED

Submitted by:

Connie M. Cole
Borough Secretary