

CATAWISSA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY June 7th, 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, AJ McKenney, Victoria Waugh, Roy Klinger, Attorney Anthony McDonald, Mayor Todd Burke
Absent: Corey Yule, Jamie Cotner, Janel Patel

READING OF MINUTES:

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

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Guest Pastor Mike Spagnuolo read a prepared letter that was distributed to Council regarding the intended purpose of vacating Bank Avenue and the use of the church parking lot. Pastor Spagnuolo asked that these things be considered, Bank Avenue be vacated and returned to Catawissa Christian Church and to clarify that all business and all residents can and has been allowed to use the church parking lot.
- Guest George Fletcher spoke of the culvert project and a drain that was place on the United First Methodist Church property. Mr. Fletcher is concerned with a sink hole that keeps opening up and asked for a resolution. Attorney Anthony McDonald is going to look at the bid bond for the contractor to see if the Borough can have them return to do some work.
- Guest Vito Clemente spoke at length of fair and equal treatment of all businesses and looking out for the best interest of the whole community. Mr. Clemente also spoke of fair treatment regarding the use of Fox Avenue and Bank Avenue or to go back to pre-pandemic conditions. Mr. Clemente feels his parents are being targeted due to the fact of being asked to remove their picnic tables daily in case of a fire and fire trucks needing to enter on Fox Avenue. Mr. Clemente pointed out other points of entry fire trucks can use to enter the alley way behind Vito's.
- Guest Cindy Bachman asked if she could speak of (2) agenda items already on the agenda under her report. Council President Doug Krum stated that would be fine.
- Guest Pat Hess inquired about the Office Staff's salary and if the raises on the agenda was because they took on more work. Ms. Hess asked what was the office staff currently making. Council President stated Connie is \$19.67/hr and Nancy is \$22.50/hr. Ms. Hess also inquired what if the new council wants to hire a new Borough Manager. Council President Doug Krum replied he has no say in that. Ms. Hess asked what happens to the \$3.50 when those duties fall to the way side. Council President Doug Krum said that is not up to him because he will not be on Council.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Borough Secretary Connie Cole reported the Borough received a call from Deb Dombroski with the Senior Center thanking Public Works Employees Chase Petty and Tyler Torres for the wonderful job they did installing the new kitchen sink.

MAYOR:

- Mayor Todd Burke thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.
- Mr. Burke shared a story of Corporal Hayes helping an elderly woman who had no one she trusted to come into her home and help her with an air conditioner and put together a fan on a day the temperatures were high.

WATER:

- Water Authority Superintendent Cindy Bachman asked if demolishing the property at 104 Main St is the last course of action that can be taken. Ms. Bachman expressed her concerns on losing another property. Attorney Anthony McDonald explained what it would take to have a property condemned and options the Borough could take for the property to be demolished. Ms. Bachman asked if the property was demolished could something else be built there. Attorney McDonald stated generally speaking no because it is in a flood zone.
- Ms. Bachman asked if the funds that are going to the Cemetery Project could be used to take care of the dry hydrant. Council President Doug Krum informed Ms. Bachman the funds are coming from the Eyer Fund so, no they cannot.
- Ms. Bachman reported she attended a meeting with Fire Chief Dale Hendricks, Council President Doug Krum, Jason Fitzgerald with Penn Strategies and Public Works Employee Crystal Stoker concerning the dry hydrant. There was supposed to be a follow up phone conversation but it never happened. Ms. Bachman stated with the new dry hydrant location the opening of the pipe must be constantly maintained. Ms. Bachman explained the process they must go through to maintain that opening and stated it is not practical. Ms. Bachman requested someone reach out to Mr. Fitzgerald to see if the dry hydrant can be repaired with the funds remaining from the grant. Council President Doug Krum stated he would reach out to Mr. Fitzgerald.
- Ms. Bachman stated the Water Authority provides water at the Cara Park bathrooms as a courtesy for bathroom use only. Ms. Bachman shared a story of a Pavilion Renter who asked permission for a slip & slide and was told no they could not hook up a hose to the bathroom water. Ms. Bachman went by the pavilion on said Renter's date and found the Renter had hooked up a hose to fill a kiddie pool. Ms. Bachman made a suggestion that a policy be made for the water usage when renting the pavilion.
- Ms. Bachman spoke of Senate Bill 597 regarding PUC regulating sewer & water. Ms. Bachman suggested contacting PSAB and requested we look into the bill. Ms. Bachman requested the Borough submit an opposition letter to Senator Gordner. Ms. Bachman said it would not serve the community well if the Public Utility Commission stepped in.
- Ms. Bachman asked if the Water Authority could use the Sensus Handheld for meter reading since the Borough has changed over to tablets. The Water Authority's only handheld is no longer functioning. Council President Doug Krum told Ms. Bachman that is fine.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:

- Council President Doug Krum read the code enforcement report.

POLICE:

- Chief Laidacker reported for the month of May the department responded to (231) calls for service. Chief Laidacker read his report which stated the following:
- The SUV repairs were completed and the brakes were replaced.
- Repairs to the front axle of the sedan were completed, and recall work was done.
- The SUV received damage when, during an attempt to stop, a suspect rammed into the passenger side. The insurance company has been notified.
- Officers volunteered time to assist with Dumpster Day.
- The CPOBA is making plans to participate in Kid's Day with Rita's, fingerprinting, and a bicycle course.
- Corporal Hayes and Officer Krape attended vehicle inspection class.
- Officer McNelis attended a (2) day training in order to become the property/evidence officer.
- Officer Kistner attended SWAT week long training.
- Officer McNelis also attended training for De-escalation, CPR Certification, and Search and Seizure training.
- A motion was made by Victoria Waugh, 2nd by Roy Klinger to approve the sale of the BCM weapon to Officer Kistner at a price of \$1000.00 payable in (6) payments with the final payment due by November 30th, 2021. All Aye
- A motion was made by Victoria Waugh, 2nd by AJ McKenney to approve a contract between Catawissa Borough and Officer David Kistner regarding the purchase of the BCM weapon and payment plan. All Aye

PUBLIC WORKS:

- A motion was made by Victoria Waugh, 2nd by Roy Klinger to discuss placing the old T-tag with plow for bid. A motion was made by Victoria Waugh, 2nd by Roy Klinger to approve placing the old T-tag with plow for bid. All Aye
- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by AJ McKenney to approve installation & testing of customer provided mobile radio in new dump truck & PM of radio in backhoe at a cost of \$260.00. All Aye
- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by AJ McKenney to approve the purchase of (4) logos and installation on (2) Public Works vehicles from Creasy Signs at a cost of \$225.00. All Aye

PUBLIC SAFETY:

- A motion was made by Victoria Waugh, 2nd by AJ McKenney to discuss Vito's moving their picnic tables out of Fox Avenue at the end of business day. Council President Doug Krum suggested Vito's move picnic tables Sunday through Tuesday. Vito Clemente asked what is the purpose? Don't fires happen every day? Mr. Clemente asked why fire trucks can't enter Kline Avenue by other directions. Mr. Clemente asked why are we going back to this again? Councilwoman Victoria Waugh stated she feels everyone should be treated fairly. Ms. Waugh sees the safety issue and also sees Mr. Clemente's side of being treated fairly. Attorney Anthony McDonald strongly suggests treating people fairly, equally and consistently. Attorney McDonald also suggested having a committee come up with permitting for the alleys. Attorney McDonald explained the code for vacating an alley and stated it is not as easy as giving the alley back for \$1.00. Attorney McDonald said it is not a good look for businesses to feel they are being treated differently which is not a good thing. Attorney McDonald stated he feels a committee needs to be put together to study this. Councilwoman Victoria Waugh asked Attorney McDonald if he had easy access to the laws that can be provided to Council. Attorney McDonald volunteered to sit in on the first meeting. Attorney McDonald made a suggestion to let things the way they are until a committee can be made and a study be done.
- A motion was made Victoria Waugh, 2nd AJ McKenney to approve the purchase of a License Plate Reader for \$2,300.00 per year for (5) years. The first year will be paid by the Benevolent Fund, Donation Fund and with funds from the sale of the BCM weapon. All Aye
- A motion to discuss Catawissa Hose Company #1's request for financial support with funds from the American Rescue ACT 2021. No motion was made because funds have to be applied for.

UTILITIES:

- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by Victoria Waugh to discuss power conservation for Borough Residents. Councilman Roy Klinger explained what peak load times are, what the power conservation with AMP entailed and that the details will be posted on the website and Facebook.

PARKS & RECREATION/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

- Nothing to report

PROPERTY & BUILDING MAINTENANCE:

- Council President Doug Krum thanked Crystal Stoker, for donating the flowers and planters to help beautify the Borough.
- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by AJ McKenney to discuss bids for the repair of the Sewer Plant Roof. Council President Doug Krum stated the Borough only received one bid from Stine Construction in the amount of \$4,620.00. A motion was made by Victoria Waugh, 2nd by Roy Klinger to accept the bid from Stine Construction for the repairs to the Sewer Plant Roof. All Aye
- A motion was made by Victoria Waugh, 2nd by Roy Klinger to discuss Public Works repairing and repainting the back wall of the Community Center that was damaged from water leaching through. The work will be completed on a rainy day. Council President Doug Krum asked Public Works Employee Bob Dunkelberger if this was the wall where you come in the back door. Mr. Dunkelberger replied yes and it will take more than one day. A

motion was made by Victoria Waugh, 2nd by Roy Klinger to approve the repair of the back wall at the Community Center. All Aye

- A motion was made by Victoria Waugh, 2nd by Roy Klinger to approve raising the rental fee for the Community Center to \$55 plus tax for residents and \$100 plus tax for nonresidents after repairs are complete. All Aye Councilwoman Victoria Waugh informed Council the rental fee is now taxable and that what we currently charge does not cover cleaning and sanitizing. All Aye
- A motion was made by Victoria Waugh, 2nd by AJ McKenney to approve submitting an application for Columbia County Blight Remediation and Demolition Program for 104 Main St. 3; Aye, 1; Nay: Roy Klinger. Motion carries

FINANCE:

- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by AJ McKenney to discuss Wright Flood Insurance renewal. Council President Doug Krum stated he spoke with Treasurer Nancy Yost and she suggested staying with the current coverage. A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by Victoria Waugh to renew the Wright Flood Insurance at the current coverage. All Aye

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:

- A motion was made by Victoria Waugh to discuss a raise in the amount of \$3.50 per hour for Borough Secretary Connie Cole and Borough Treasurer Nancy Yost. Motion dies due to lack of 2nd.
- A motion was made by Victoria Waugh, 2nd by Roy Klinger to approve hiring Colin Sharrow for the part-time seasonal Public Works position starting June 21, 2021 at rate of \$13/hr no more than 32 hours per week. All Aye

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- A motion to approve proceeding with vacating Bank Ave. Motion dies to due no motion made. Attorney Anthony McDonald suggested a motion to be made to appoint a committee to study this. Council President Doug Krum stated his problem with that is the committees the Borough already has doesn't do anything. Councilwoman Victoria Waugh volunteered to collect data and bring it to Council in hopes a committee can be put together. Attorney Anthony McDonald told Ms. Waugh he would get together with her on this.
- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by Victoria Waugh to approve T Mobile to install an emergency generator at their existing cellular site located at 221 Fox Ave. All Aye
- A motion was made by AJ McKenney, 2nd by Roy Klinger to discuss installation of 25 roof top solar panels at 136 Railroad St. Councilman Roy Klinger stated adequate information was needed. Mr. Klinger also feels enough Councilmembers are not present. Mr. Klinger feels council as a whole should be present for this. Attorney Anthony McDonald suggest having an ordinance done for Wind and Solar Power. A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by AJ McKenney to table the matter until more information can be gathered. All Aye
- A motion was made by AJ McKenney, 2nd by Roy Klinger to discuss a plaque for Ben Hollingshead. Council President Doug Krum stated the Borough is waiting for Alicia Hollingshead to see what is wanted on the plaque. Guest Daniel Johnson suggested the plaque being mounted to a light pole at the square. A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by AJ McKenney to approve up to \$1000.00 to purchase a bronze plaque for Ben Hollingshead dedication. All Aye
- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by AJ McKenney to discuss the replacement of the lights on the Bluff. A motion was made by Victoria Waugh, 2nd by Roy Klinger to approve the install of solar lights at the bluff for the quote of \$473.69 with Tyler Torres's solar panel. All Aye

NEW BUSINESS:

- A motion was made by AJ McKenney, 2nd Roy Klinger to approve phase 2 for the repair of Greenwood Cemetery at a cost of \$28,700 using the funds that were allocated for the match of the Kayak Launch Project that has not been funded. All Aye
- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd Victoria Waugh to approve the electronic vote on 5/12/2021 for the Police SUV brake and rotor repair at a cost of \$815.00. All Aye

- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by Victoria Waugh to approve the electronic vote on 5/20/2021 to approve the repairs of the front axle and CV joint for the Police Sedan at a cost of \$647.00. All Aye
- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by Victoria Waugh to approve Dish wireless to install (3) new panel antennas and a 5' x 7' equipment platform on grade with (2) cabinets and related equipment within existing fenced compound located at 221 Fox Avenue. All Aye
- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by AJ McKenney to approve Verizon to modify their existing equipment by removing (9) antennas and (3) RRUs and installing (9) antennas and (9) RRUs. All Aye
- A motion was made by Victoria Waugh, 2nd by Roy Klinger to approve Solicitor Anthony McDonald to draw up an Ordinance regarding trapping animals. Attorney Anthony McDonald explained there are already many state laws that are on the books that the police and the Fish and Game Commission can enforce. A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by Victoria Waugh to remove the motion from the agenda. All Aye
- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by AJ McKenney to approve Catawissa Fire Company not needing a permit to put a new roof over the main entrance. Attorney Anthony McDonald explained permits are not only used to collect money but to ensure the work is being done properly. Attorney McDonald suggested Council have the Fire Department apply for the appropriate permits but waived the fees. A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by AJ McKenney to approve the Fire Department to apply for the proper permits waiving Catawissa Borough permit fees to put a new roof over the main entrance. All Aye
- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by AJ McKenney to approve the resignation of Councilwoman Jamie Cotner. All Aye
- A motion was AJ McKenney, 2nd by Roy Klinger to approve accepting Letters of Interest for the open Council seat that expires December 31st, 2021. All Aye

FINANCE PAYMENT OF BILLS

- A motion was made by Roy Klinger 2nd by Victoria Waugh to accept bills as written and any others that may arise before the next council meeting. All Aye

GUESTS TO BE HEARD

- No guests to be heard.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

MEETING ADJOURNED

Submitted by:

Connie M. Cole
Borough Secretary