

CATAWISSA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY September 13th, 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, Marnie Yeick, Victoria Waugh, Janel Patel, Attorney Anthony McDonald, Mayor Todd Burke, via telephone Roy Klinger

READING OF MINUTES:

- A motion was made by AJ McKenney, 2nd by Janel Patel to dispense reading of and approve minutes of the previous month's meeting. All Aye

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Guest Sue Helwig expressed her concern with the citizens not getting the correct information, also not all information being disclosed for employee contracts that were voted on last month. Ms. Helwig would also like to know how it was calculated that giving the police an extra personal day in their contract wasn't going to cost the borough more money and why the police was given the right to decide about regionalizing in their contract. Ms. Helwig wanted to know how Council plans on balancing a budget for next year. Ms. Helwig asked how much of the Covid Rescue Funds were left. Councilman Doug Krum stated we received around 72,000. The Borough received half this year and the other half next year. Ms. Helwig asked what the funds were planned to be used on. Council President Doug Krum stated some of the topics would be discussed later in the meeting. Attorney Anthony McDonald asked Ms. Helwig to please refer back to her first topic. Ms. Helwig stated the change to the Sunshine Act had taken place on August 29th, 2021 and an item was added at the last council meeting. Attorney McDonald explained before that date you could still make changes to the agenda. Ms. Helwig is concerned legal steps are not being followed. Ms. Helwig is concerned Attorney McDonald does not speak up when things are not being done right. Attorney McDonald explained he is bound by Attorney/Client privilege and he can not divulge what is spoken in conversation with Council. Ms. Helwig is concerned with things being done and where the money is coming from for expenditures. Council President Doug Krum asked Ms. Helwig if she had a copy of the budgets and informed her, she can come in and get a copy. Attorney Anthony McDonald told her he couldn't agree with her more with things being done right.
- Guest Nick Fletcher asked if there was any update on the culvert project regarding the sink hole opening up on the church property. Attorney McDonald told Mr. Fletcher that the case has been filed and there is a problem in getting service and if service isn't received in 30 days the case must be refiled. Attorney McDonald told Mr. Fletcher, he will continue to work the case and Mr. Fletcher is welcome to attend every meeting.
- Guest Daniel Johnson asked what the matter was about for the electronic vote on 8/19/2021. Council President Doug Krum stated it was a personnel matter and it cannot be spoken about at a public meeting. Mr. Johnson asked how short are the uniform and non-uniform pensions? Council President Doug Krum stated he did not have that information on him but could get it to him. Councilwoman Victoria Waugh explained previous Councils were not putting in the appropriate amount in the pensions so this council is trying to catch up the deficits. Attorney Anthony McDonald explained previous Councils received their MMO amounts from an Actuary and thought they were voting on the right amounts. Mr. McDonald explained no Council

maliciously voted to not put enough money in the pension. Mr. Johnson also asked about the change to the purchasing procedure they just approved last month. Council President Doug Krum stated Council will discuss that later.

- Guest Gary Steinruck stated when he was on Council the amounts to be put in came from an Actuary and that's what was be put in. Attorney McDonald stated it was legal advice but it may not have been correct advice so now they are behind.
- Ms. Helwig asked how the pension money was invested. Attorney McDonald stated they probably don't have all the money in one basket. Ms. Helwig stated the pensions should be in better shape because the stock market has done well.
- Guest Gary Steinruck stated it also has to be taken into consideration that employee contributions have been lower and the Borough now has (2) additional full-time police officers and he is sure that makes a difference.
- Guest Victoria Waugh asked Councilman McKenney if he is still on the Committee that did Senior day. Councilman McKenney said yes. Councilwoman Waugh wanted to know why he did not answer emails and text messages concerning Senior Day. Councilman McKenney stated it slipped his mind. Councilwoman Waugh thanked Janel Patel, Nancy Yost and Connie Cole for putting on Senior Day. Ms. Waugh thanked Mayor Burke and Chief Laidacker for attending Senior Day.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- The Borough received a \$50 donation from the Letterman Reunion for the free use of the pavilion at Cara Park. The Letterman Reunion requested the donation be used for Senior Day.
- Iris Bird wanted to thank the Public Works Employees for their hard work and the great job they did picking up all her brush.
- Shirley Stewart of 530 Pine St. sent a thank you card to the Public Works Employees for bringing sand bags to her home during the rain from Ida to prevent water from coming into her home.

MAYOR:

- Mayor Todd Burke thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.
- Mr. Burke made a suggestion of holding trick or treat night on Wednesday October 27th and rain date of Thursday October 28th.
- Mr. Burke spoke of (2) incidences that took place where Officers Krape and Corporal Hayes had to administer narcan to save (2) lives from over doses.
- Mayor Burke also spoke about going to talk to one of the over dose victims about treatment facilities and help out there for them.

WATER:

- Water Authority Superintendent Cindy Bachman reported hydrants will be flushed on Monday October 11th at 8 am.
- Ms. Bachman thanked Public Works Employees Chase, Tyler and Crystal for getting the power up and running quickly on 9/1/2021 from the Ida storms. Ms. Bachman also thanked Public Works for helping the Water Authority on 9/10/2021 with a water leak.
- Ms. Bachman requested a couple of things to be verified. One of them is the balance of the grant that is remaining, 2nd it needs to be put in writing that the dry hydrant does qualify as part of the grant project and lastly if Engineering RFPs are allowed or not. Ms. Bachman asked for Council's permission to get clarification on these matters. Council President Doug Krum told Ms. Bachman she has Council's permission to get verification.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:

- Council President Doug Krum read the code enforcement report.

POLICE:

- Chief Laidacker reported for the month of August the department responded to (240) calls for service. Chief Laidacker read his report which stated the following:
- No issues with the vehicles this month.
- Going to address later the permit needed for the parade and the meal afterwards.
- Chief is working with Penn Strategies on a grant for a dash cam for car 1.
- Chief expressed his gratitude for Officer's Krape, Kistner and Corporal Hayes for saving (3) lives last month from over doses.
- Councilwoman Victoria Waugh thanked Chief Laidacker for keeping an extra eye out for the children at the bus stops the first few days of school.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

- A motion was made by Victoria Waugh, 2nd by Corey Yule to approve the Winter Maintenance Agreement with Penn DOT. All Aye
- A motion was made by Corey Yule, 2nd by Roy Klinger to discuss clearing trees from around the dry hydrant. Council President Doug Krum read the quotes received. Kocher Tree Service clearing dry hydrant - \$7,500, clearing from bank to bank \$8,500. Northeastern Tree Service clearing dry hydrant - \$4,500, clearing bank to bank \$18, 500. A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by Corey Yule to approve the quote of \$8,500 from Kocher Tree Service to clear the creek by the dry hydrant from bank to bank. All Aye
- A motion was made by Corey Yule, 2nd by AJ McKenney to discuss signage to keep trucks on the more traveled roads. Chief Laidacker spoke of keeping trucks over 28.5 feet long from turning off of South 4th Street. Chief Laidacker stated the best scenario is to keep the trucks off of South 4th Street but signage on Main Street would have to be from Penn DOT. After a brief discussion and some suggestions from guests and council members a motion was made by Victoria Waugh, 2nd by Marnie Yeick to approve the purchase of (2) signs stating trucks with trailers greater than 28.5' no turns, signs will be placed at South Street & South 4th and at South 4th St & Shuman St. All Aye

UTILITIES:

- Committee Chairman Corey Yule reported 84 electric late notices & 32 sewer late notices were mailed for the month of August.
- Open and closed balances were read for electric and sewer accounts

PARKS & RECREATION/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

- A motion was made by Janel Patel, 2nd by Victoria Waugh to discuss purchasing new playground equipment with the COVID Rescue Funds. Councilwoman Victoria Waugh asked if the equipment was already purchased because the quote said sold to and shipped to. Councilman AJ McKenney stated no it was not. Councilwoman Victoria Waugh stated by the guidelines we meet the criteria to use the COVID funds for this purchase but asked Attorney McDonald with everyone touching the equipment would we qualify. Attorney McDonald stated with the equipment being outside in the sun, getting rained on the equipment would be ok. Guest Sue Helwig asked why doesn't council looked at spending the funds as a whole and why are we looking at making this purchase now. Guest Daniel Johnson ask what the cost of this equipment will be. Councilwoman Waugh stated the up to code swings are \$2,436.00 and the fun hoop and disc golf is \$2085.00. A motion was made by Victoria Waugh, 2nd by Janel Patel to purchase the swings, disc golf, and fun hoops. All Aye

PROPERTY & BUILDING MAINTENANCE:

- A motion was made by Victoria Waugh, 2nd by Marnie Yeick to approve removing Manager parking sign. All Aye
- A motion was made by Victoria Waugh, 2nd by Janel Patel to discuss estimates and possible insurance submission for the Police evidence room. All quotes received for the demolition of the evidence room were read by Councilwoman Victoria Waugh. BJ Crawford \$3,800 and any additional work needed would be \$60.00/hr. Jason Fowler Construction was \$4,550 and if paint tested positive for lead it would be an additional \$750 to do the work. Maldonado Construction's bid was not considered because he submitted a bid for more than the scope of work that was asked for. Maldonado's quote was for a total of \$26,200.00. Councilwoman Marnie Yeick asked why one quoted a lead test and the other didn't. Manager of Administration Connie Cole reported that Jason Fowler Construction was concerned with the age of the room it may contain lead paint. Guest Daniel Johnson asked about submitting this project to the insurance. Council President Doug Krum stated he is going to call the insurance company to see if this qualifies for a claim. A motion was made by Victoria Waugh, 2nd by Marnie Yeick to approve the quote from Jason Fowler Construction for the evidence room. All Aye

FINANCE:

- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by Corey Yule to discuss financial assistance for the Water Authority's Flood Mitigation Project. Council President Doug Krum read a letter submitted by Catawissa Water Authority. President Krum also read an email he sent to Harry Mathias asking questions concerning the project. Attorney Anthony McDonald stated Harry Mathias is very good about coming to you and explaining this. Attorney McDonald recommended a committee meets with Mr. Mathias. Council President Doug Krum stated the Public Safety Committee will take care of this.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:

- A motion was made by Janel Patel, 2nd by Victoria Waugh to approve the resignation of Emergency Management Coordinator Paul Allen effective October 1, 2021. All Aye
- A motion was made by Victoria Waugh, 2nd by Corey Yule to approve the electronic vote on 8/19/2021 regarding a personnel matter. All Aye

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by AJ McKenney to table the motion to discuss a donation to the Fire Company from the Rescue Funds. The matter is tabled until further information is gathered. All Aye
- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by Corey Yule to approve putting the (6) factory tires (225/70R19.5) from the T-tag up for bid on the website and Facebook. Council President Doug Krum stated that Council would like to get a minimum of \$380/ per tire. All Aye
- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by Victoria Waugh to discuss opposition letter for Senate Bill 597. Council President Doug Krum read the opposition letter to all. A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by Victoria Waugh to approve the opposition letter for Senate Bill 597. All Aye

NEW BUSINESS:

- A motion was made by Janel Patel, 2nd by Marnie Yeick to approve Trick or Treating on Wednesday October 27th with a rain date of Thursday October 28th. All Aye
- A motion was made by Victoria Waugh, 2nd Corey Yule to discuss the Uniform and Non-uniform Pension MMOs. Council President Doug Krum read a report from the Finance Committee Meeting summarizing the MMOs situation for 2021.

- A motion was made by Victoria Waugh, 2nd by Marnie Yeick to discuss amending the Purchasing Procedure. Councilwoman Victoria Waugh explained Chief Laidacker is not on shift everyday so he can not follow the guidelines of turning in receipts within 24 hours. A motion was made by Victoria Waugh, 2nd by Marnie Yeick to remove Chief Laidacker from the Purchasing Procedure. All Aye
- A motion was made by Janel Patel, 2nd by Victoria Waugh to approve the date of the Catawissa Halloween Parade and all accompanying road closures for Saturday October 30th with a rain date of Sunday, October 31st, 2021. All Aye
- A motion was made by Corey Yule, 2nd by AJ McKenney to approve Chief Laidacker to apply for a detour permit for the Halloween Parade. All Aye
- A motion was made by Janel Patel, 2nd by Marnie Yeick to approve \$400 for a meal for the volunteers after the Halloween Parade.
- A motion was made by Victoria Waugh, 2nd by AJ McKenney to discuss a donation to the Halloween Parade Committee. After a brief discuss of how much was donated previous years. A motion was made by Victoria Waugh, 2nd by Roy Klinger to donate \$1000 to the Halloween Parade Committee. All Aye

FINANCE PAYMENT OF BILLS

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

GUESTS TO BE HEARD

- Guest Gary Steinruck asked about the document he requested last meeting with all information regarding what was done to his electric meter. Manager of Administration Connie Cole told Mr. Steinruck it was prepared and if he wanted to wait a few minutes after the meeting she could print it off. Mr. Steinruck said he would stop in tomorrow.
- Guest Nick Fletcher requested more orange fence to put around the sink hole at the church because the sink hole was getting bigger. Council President Doug Krum stated he would have Public Works Superintendent Crystal Stoker bring him some fencing.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

MEETING ADJOURNED

Submitted by:

Connie M. Cole
Borough Secretary