

**CATAWISSA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**MONDAY November 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, Roy Klinger, Victoria Waugh, Janel Patel, Attorney Anthony McDonald, Mayor Todd Burke, Marnie Yeick arrived at 7:49 p.m. for meeting.

**READING OF MINUTES:**

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

**GUESTS TO BE HEARD:**

- Guest Patti Hess asked where the money was coming from for the Police Station remodel when the Police are already over budget. Council President Doug Krum stated the money will come out of the Capital Fund. Ms. Hess stated it can't come out of next year's budget. Council President Doug Krum explained it will not come out of next year's budget, there is a CD coming due next month.
- Guest Sue Helwig asked Council President Doug Krum what the salary is for the (2) Office Managers. Council President Doug Krum stated he did not know off the top of his head. Ms. Helwig read off what the (2) manager's salaries would be with the increase. Councilwoman Victoria Waugh asked if you already knew why did you ask? Ms. Helwig stated what the percentage is of the increases the managers will have received in (1) year. Councilwoman Waugh informed Ms. Helwig the Office Managers took on a lot more duties for some of that increase. Ms. Helwig was informing Council that if they do the increase tonight the Office Managers will be making more than some of the Police that put their lives on the line every single day. That is not a good precedent to be setting. Ms. Helwig found this to be irresponsible.
- Guest Sue Helwig also inquired as to why the Police Pension was being reduced. Council President Doug Krum explained the Pension Contribution was set with the Uniform Contract and the Resolution needs to be done every year by law if it is below Act 30 which is 5%.
- Guest Sue Helwig inquired about the grievance settlement. Ms. Helwig wanted to know what the grievance was about. Council President Doug Krum stated the circumstance cannot be discussed at a public meeting. Ms. Helwig asked for confirmation from the Borough Labor Attorney that the issue cannot be discussed in a public meeting.
- Guest Patti Hess asked why the office girls were getting 3% raises when they just got a \$3.50/hr. raise. Council President Doug Krum stated the raises are cost of living raises and all the union people are getting a cost-of-living raise. Ms. Hess replied they are not union. Council President Doug Krum asked why should Council discriminate against the girls. Guest Jeff Fleming stated because they just got a \$3.50 raise Doug. Ms. Helwig stated other people did not get \$3.50. Councilwoman Victoria Waugh and Council President Doug Krum stated they didn't take on more responsibilities. Ms. Hess continued to express she resented the 3% raise. Councilwoman Victoria Waugh asked Ms. Hess if she knew what the girls do. Ms. Hess replied she sat in Ms. Waugh's position and knows. Councilwoman Waugh responded that no one has any idea what the work is these girls do on a daily basis unless they sat in the girls' position. Ms. Waugh explained that she came in and worked a week and was exhausted. Ms. Waugh also stated you get what you pay for.
- Guest Gary Steinruck inquired about the permitting system regarding closing the alley.
- Guest Gary Steinruck questioned why Borough employees were seen carrying insulation into the Police Station. Council President Doug Krum explained when the ceiling was opened up there was no insulation. The Borough purchased the insulation and the contractor installed the insulation for free.
- Guest Gary Steinruck also mentioned Council not following Robert's Rules when being addressed.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

- The Borough received a request from the Catawissa Creek Restoration Association to hold a "Catawissa Creek Festival" in Cara Park in the Fall of 2022.

**MAYOR:**

- Mayor Todd Burke reported how well Trick or Treat Night went. Police Officers handed out candy and (2) patrol cars were on duty.
- Mayor Burke thanked all the volunteers, people who donated their time and the Police Officers who were present keeping the process of the parade running smoothly and safely.

- Councilman Corey Yule congratulated Mayor Burke on his reelection.

#### WATER:

- Water Authority Superintendent Cindy Bachman reported the Water Authority will be selecting an Engineer for the Elevation Project. The next step will be to come up with a cost for the project. Once the Water Authority has the cost it will be passed onto the Borough.

#### CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:

- Council President Doug Krum read the code enforcement report.

#### POLICE:

- Chief Laidacker reported for the month of October the department responded to (191) calls for service. Chief Laidacker read his report which stated the following:
- The department participated in Trick or Treat Night on October 27<sup>th</sup>.
- The Chief is still working with Penn Strategies on an upcoming grant.
- Department officers assisted with the 114<sup>th</sup> Annual Halloween Parade.

#### PUBLIC WORKS:

- Nothing to report.

#### PUBLIC SAFETY:

- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Victoria Waugh to discuss the progress of the dry hydrant project. Water Authority Superintendent Cindy Bachman reported the dry hydrant project can be part of the grant since the problem was caused by the Culvert Project. Ms. Bachman gave Council the options that are available to collect engineering proposals for the project and which process would allow Council to use the engineering costs to be eligible for reimbursement. A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Victoria Waugh to advertise for Engineering Bids for the Dry Hydrant Project. Ms. Bachman volunteered to help the Public Safety Committee with the RFP for engineering. A motion was made by Victoria Waugh, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Roy Klinger for Ms. Bachman to help prepare the RFP for Engineering & placing the RFP on Penn Bid. All Aye Council President & Councilman Roy Klinger told Ms. Bachman they could have a meeting on Monday November 15<sup>th</sup>. They would get back to her with a time.

#### UTILITIES:

- Committee Chairman Corey Yule reported (90) Electric late notices and (32) Sewer late notices were mailed.
- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Corey Yule to approve the purchase of (40) Vision Meter Residential Electric Meters. All Aye
- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Corey Yule to discuss EPPG Capacity Purchase from NextEra. Councilman Roy Klinger gave a presentation on the Capacity Purchase. Councilman Klinger still has some information to gather before a decision is made.

#### PARKS & RECREATION/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

- A motion was made by Janel Patel, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Victoria Waugh to approve amending the closing of Bank Avenue to Dec. 3rd, 2021 through Dec. 8th, 2021 for the Catawissa Christian Church Winterfest set up, event and tear down. All Aye

#### PROPERTY & BUILDING MAINTENANCE:

- A motion was made by Victoria Waugh, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Janel Patel to approve the quote from Jason Fowler Construction to repair the Chimney on the top of the Police Station at a cost of \$1392.00. All Aye
- A motion was made by Victoria Waugh, 2<sup>nd</sup> by AJ McKenney to approve to discuss the bids received for replacing the Police Department Building Roof. After a brief discussion on sealing and painting or replacing the roof. A motion was made by Corey Yule, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Victoria Waugh for Jason Fowler Construction to replace the Police Department Building Roof for a cost of \$9,905.20. All Aye
- A motion was made by Corey Yule, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Victoria Waugh to approve getting bids to repair the Borough Hall Portico Roof. All Aye

#### FINANCE:

- A motion was made by Corey Yule, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Victoria Waugh to discuss a proposed budget for the Borough of Catawissa for the 2022 Fiscal Year. All Aye
- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2<sup>nd</sup> by AJ McKenney to advertise a proposed 2022 Budget for the Borough of Catawissa. All Aye

- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Victoria Waugh to approve Resolution 2021-1 regarding Fixing the Tax Rate for the Year 2022. All Aye
- A motion was made by Victoria Waugh, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Roy Klinger to approve transferring \$12,000 from the Sewer Account to General Fund for the Pension. 5 Aye, 1 Nay- AJ McKenney Motion carries
- A motion was made by Victoria Waugh, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Corey Yule to approve transferring \$5000 from the Electric Account to General Fund for the Pension. 5 Aye, 1 Nay- AJ McKenney Motion carries

#### PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:

- A motion was made by Victoria Waugh, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Janel Patel to approve the settlement of the union grievance. All Aye
- A motion was made by Victoria Waugh, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Janel Patel to approve (13) \$25.00 gift cards for full-time employees and (3) \$15 gift cards for part-time employees for Christmas 2021. All Aye
- A motion was made by Victoria Waugh, 2<sup>nd</sup> by AJ McKenney to discuss the work schedule on Christmas Eve for Borough Employees. Council President Doug Krum stated we usually give them the day off. A motion was made by Victoria Waugh, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Roy Klinger to give Employees Christmas Eve off. All Aye
- A motion was made by Victoria Waugh, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Corey Yule to approve a 3% cost of living increase for Manager of Finance Nancy Yost & Manager of Administration Connie Cole for Fiscal year 2022 starting January 1, 2022. 4 Aye, 2 Nay - Roy Klinger, AJ McKenney Motion carries

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- A motion was made by Victoria Waugh, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Janel Patel to discuss the Community/ Senior Center at 319 Pine Street. Council President Doug Krum read the Financial Analysis Reports for the Community/ Senior Center. Council President Doug Krum stated he would like to find a place for the Seniors to go before any decision is made. Guests Dan Johnson and Nick Fletcher gave some suggestions of local churches or the firehall. Sharon Krum expressed her concern with the Senior Center maybe going to another town.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2<sup>nd</sup> by AJ McKenney to approve the bid of \$2,200 for the Giant Vac Leaf Vacuum with the payment to be deposited into the Capital Fund. All Aye
- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Janel Patel to approve the bid for \$900.00 for the (6) factory tires (225/70R19.5) from the T-tag with the payment to be deposited into the Capital Fund. All Aye
- A motion was made by Victoria Waugh, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Corey Yule to approve Resolution 2021-10, reducing the Police Officer's Contribution below the ACT 30 guidelines for the Borough's Uniformed Pension Plan for the year 2022. 4 Aye, 1 Nay - AJ McKenney
- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Victoria Waugh to approve Borough Council Meetings dates for 2022. All Aye
- A motion was made Roy Klinger, 2<sup>nd</sup> by AJ McKenney to advertise Borough Council Meeting dates for 2022. All Aye

#### FINANCE PAYMENT OF BILLS

- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

- Guest Gary Steinruck asked what percentage will the Police be contributing to the pension. Council President Doug Krum reported the contribution rate will be 4.5%.
- Guest Gary Steinruck stated most of the money put into the Community/Senior Center was used to fix up the upstairs. Mr. Steinruck feels Council is not promoting the Community Center to be used enough. Council President Doug Krum stated the Community Center is good for birthday parties but anything big, there is not enough parking and the roof needs fixed. Councilwoman Victoria Waugh mentioned the back wall needs fixed again because of water running in. Councilman Corey Yule stated there is no air conditioning.
- Guest Gary Steinruck stated look how much money we are spending on the Police Station. Mr. Steinruck complained it is close to \$20,000. Councilwoman Victoria Waugh explained it is an office building we have that houses employees. Councilman Corey Yule explained this building is used every day. Mr. Steinruck stated the Center is used every day by Seniors. Council President Doug Krum stated yes and that is why we are going to look for a place for the Seniors to go. Councilwoman Victoria Waugh explained if the Borough had a building for the police to go that was cost efficient and in better shape that would be great. But the Borough doesn't have that so we need to fix what we got.

- Guest Gary Steinruck asked to see a print out where the money was spent for the Community/Senior Center from the analysis Council President Krum read. Council President Doug Krum stated he would get the information for Mr. Steinruck.
- Council President Doug Krum read a prepared statement regarding his disgust with some candidates that ran for Mayor & Council. Mr. Krum felt some of their actions were a way to cheat.
- Councilwoman Janel Patel handed Council President Doug Krum her resignation from Council. Council President Doug Krum read Ms. Patel's resignation.
- A motion was made by Victoria Waugh, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Roy Klinger to add a motion to the agenda. 5 Aye, 1 Nay - AJ McKenney Motion carries
- A motion was made by Victoria Waugh, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Marnie Yeick to accept Janel Patel's resignation. 5 Aye, 1 Nay - Corey Yule Motion carries
- A motion was made by Victoria Waugh, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Roy Klinger to accept Letters of Interest. All Aye

ADJOURNMENT:

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

MEETING ADJOURNED

Submitted by:

Connie M. Cole, Borough Secretary