

CATAWISSA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
FRIDAY January 28th, 2021 - 6:30 p.m.

An Executive Session took place before the regular schedule meeting at 6:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER:

- The meeting was called to order by Council President, Sue Helwig.

ROLL CALL:

- Present were: Sue Helwig, Kevin Ferris, Jeffrey Fleming, Roy Klinger, Gary Steinruck, Andrew Detwiler, Mayor Todd Burke, Absent - Attorney Anthony McDonald

READING OF MINUTES:

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

COUNCIL PRESIDENT REPORT:

- Council President Sue Helwig spoke about the following items:
- Council wants to be as open and transparent as possible.
- Agency work was completed after the Council meeting on Jan. 3rd, 2022.
- Council would like to have Guest to be Heard at the beginning and end of the meeting plus during line items on the agenda.
- Council would like to get agendas out earlier so the public has better detail of what will be discussed at meetings.
- Looking into a way questions can be brought to Council if you cannot attend the meetings.
- Council would like to be a fiscally conservative group.
- Council will make sure all departments work within their budget and will be putting guidelines and policies in place to make sure this happens.
- Looking for larger meeting space.
- Looking for grants for microphones etc. to help with meetings in larger spaces.
- Possibility of zoom and live meetings.
- Would like to see the community members get involved in the borough.
- No Letters of Interest received as of Jan. 28th, 2022 for the zoning hearing board. This vacancy will remain open until we can get someone.

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Guest Victoria Waugh inquired if Council was aware Labor Attorney Eric Brown already looked over and approved the employee contracts and agreements. Council President Sue Helwig answered yes, we are aware. Ms. Waugh asked so you are aware of that? Ms. Helwig replied "yes". Ms. Waugh then questioned why are you paying him to do the same thing. Council President Sue Helwig stated they are not paying him to do the same thing, they have questions Council wants addressed. Ms. Waugh asked if he is donating his time. Ms. Helwig said "no". Ms. Waugh stated so we are paying him? Ms. Helwig replied "yes". Ms. Waugh asked how much is the Borough paying him? Ms. Helwig replied \$190/hr. Ms. Waugh asked if the Council had a total yet for Mr. Brown to look over the contracts and agreements he already looked at. Ms. Helwig stated "no". Ms. Waugh asked if she could please have that emailed to her? Ms. Helwig asked Manager of Administration Connie Cole to please mark that down.
- Ms. Waugh also asked Council President Sue Helwig if she knew how much the Borough saved when Mr. Kopp decided to leave even with the girl's raises. Council President Sue Helwig stated yes. Ms. Waugh asked Ms. Helwig if she could tell her how much. Council President Sue Helwig said I think you would know that better than me. Ms. Waugh stated I asked you though. Ms. Helwig replied \$54,000 plus benefits. Ms. Waugh said ok, I just wanted to make sure you knew.
- Guest Nick Fletcher inquired about the ongoing situation sink hole at the Catawissa First United Methodist Church. Mr. Fletcher would like to see the problem taken care of by springtime. Chairman Andrew Detwiler told Mr. Fletcher that he spoke with Andy Keister who was the head of the project. Mr. Keister believes they cannot get the project fixed until mid to late spring. Mr. Keister feels with the ground being swamped or frozen and the need to allow the space around the culvert pipe to fill in as much as possible the project will not get fix until mid to end of spring. Mr. Fletcher thanked Mr. Detwiler for the update.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Mr. Lewis who submitted a Letter of Interest for the vacant council seat sent his apologies for not being able to attend the meeting due to illness.

MAYOR:

- Nothing to report.

Committee Reports

PUBLIC SAFETY:

- A motion was made by Andrew Detwiler, 2nd by Roy Klinger to approve a 2-year extension for the Flood Mitigation Grant # C000072486. All Aye

UTILITIES:

- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by Gary Steinruck to approve the purchase of (10) 15-amp limiters and (10) 30 – amp limiters for a cost of \$3,588.70. All Aye

FINANCE:

- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by Jeff Fleming to approve a 1-year contract with Penn Strategies for \$2,000/month. Ms. Helwig gave Manager of Administration Connie Cole some credit for suggesting to negotiate a little harder. All Aye

PERSONNEL:

- A motion was made by Gary Steinruck, 2nd by Jeff Fleming to authorize Labor Attorney Counsel to explore the prospect of repudiation of current employee contracts and agreements. 5- Aye; 1-Nay, Andrew Detwiler Motion carries

UNFINISHED:

- A motion was made by Kevin Ferris, 2nd by Roy Klinger to discuss the request from the Catawissa Hose Company for financial support using the American Rescue Funds. Council President Sue Helwig reported this came up at November 2021 meeting. A conversation was had about needing financials. Ms. Helwig asked Brandon Richendrfer with the Catawissa Fire Company how much they are looking for and what are will you use it for? Mr. Richendrfer stated they don't set that amount. Mr. Richendrfer stated previous Council said they would set the amount if they could give them (3) items they would be using it for. Mr. Richedrfer stated they listed debt reduction, PPE and permafilla of the outside of the building. The funds would be put to one of those options. After a lengthy discussion Council feels their needs to be further conversations. Council President Sue Helwig asked Brandon Richendrfer to please attend the next meeting because this will be back on the agenda.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by Gary Steinruck to discuss Letters of Interest for the vacant Council Seat. Council President Sue Helwig asked for nominations for the vacant council seat.
- Councilman Jeff Fleming, nominated David Lewis, 2nd by Roy Klinger.
- Councilman Kevin Ferris nominated AJ McKenny, 2nd by Roy Klinger. Roll call vote was taken for (3) rounds before AJ McKenny won by majority vote with the vote being. 5-Aye, 2- Nay; Jeff Fleming, Todd Burke
- Councilman Roy Klinger thanked Council for approaching things very professionally, calmly and hearing everyone out. Mr. Klinger feels that is refreshing and inspiring. Mr. Klinger thinks we can do more.
- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by Gary Steinruck to approve Resolution 2022-01 regarding filling the vacancy on Borough Council with Anthony McKenney for the 2022-2024 term. 5-Aye; 1-Nay, Jeff Fleming Motion carries
- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by Kevin Ferris to approve Gary Steinruck as Flood Plain Administration. All Aye
- A motion to discuss Columbia County Conservation District holding an annual "watershed festival" in the Borough. All Aye
- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by Andrew Detwiler to approve accepting Letters of Interest for the Vacancy Board. All Aye
- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by Jeff Fleming to discuss changing Ordinance 2015-01 regarding certification fees for Borough Tax Collector to be raised from \$10.00 to \$15.00. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by Jeff Fleming to approve Attorney Anthony McDonald to draft a change for Ordinance 2015-01 to raise Borough Tax Collector fees to \$15.00. 5-Aye, 1-Nay; Gary Steinruck Motion carries

FINANCE PAYMENT OF BILLS

- A motion was made by Andrew Detwiler, 2nd by Gary Steinruck to accept bills as written and any others that may arise before the next council meeting. All Aye

GUESTS TO BE HEARD

- Councilman Roy Klinger suggested the Catawissa Fire Company compose a wish equipment list to be used when the Borough comes across grants. Brandon Richendrfer explained they go on as needed basis because of their budget. Mr. Richendrfer requested if our grant writer comes across any grants pertaining with the fire company can the Borough, please pass the information along. Councilman Steinruck also informed Mr. Richendrfer that Mr. Fitzgerald the borough grant writer offered to write grants for anyone affiliated with the Borough. Mr. Steinruck also stated the Borough is already paying for him so there will not be an additional charge.

ADJOURNMENT:

- A motion was made by Gary Steinruck, 2nd by Kevin Ferris to adjourn. All Aye

MEETING ADJOURNED

Submitted by:

Connie M. Cole, Borough Secretary