

CATAWISSA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY May 9th, 2022 - 6:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER:

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

ROLL CALL:

- Present were: Sue Helwig, Kevin Ferris, Jeff Fleming, Gary Steinruck, AJ McKenney, Mayor Todd Burke, Attorney Anthony McDonald. Via phone: Roy Klinger

READING OF MINUTES:

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

- Council President Sue Helwig reported all the progress Council has made to this point.

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Guest Jason Fitzgerald, with Penn Strategies gave an update on grant work they have completed and work being pursued for the Borough. Councilman Gary Steinruck asked if the repairs can be started on the Sewer Plant before the grant is received. Mr. Fitzgerald recommended not doing any work until the grant contract is received. Councilman Jeff Fleming asked when would the Borough hear if the project was selected. Mr. Fitzgerald estimated June.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- The Borough received notice the Main Street Revitalization Project was not selected for FY 2022-2023 PennDot Multimodal Transportation Funding.
- Catawissa First United Methodist Church extended its sincere thanks for helping make their 2022 Catawissa Easter Egg Hunt a success.
- PennDot has approved the resolution for Summer Breeze Concert Series Banner.
- On behalf of the Borough Ms. Cole thanked public works Employees Crystal Stoker, Robert Dunkelberger and Councilman Jeff Fleming for volunteering their time to help paint Union Cemetery cannons and wall.

MAYOR:

- Mayor Todd Burke thanked everyone for attending the meeting.
- Mayor Burke read EMS Week Proclamation he signed into action.

WATER:

- Water Authority Superintendent Cindy Bachman reported Senate Bill 597B regarding water and wastewater systems is still requiring an engineering determination of what your system is composed of, system's age, and analysis of when repairs need to be done. The bill is allowing oversight to be under DEP supervision. A yearly submittal of operating revenue was added to the bill. The bill will be voted on May 23rd. Ms. Bachman requested the Borough submit a letter of opposition to Senator Gordner addressing the things that are cost prohibiting to the Borough and submitting the opposition letter before May 23rd. A motion was made by Kevin Ferris, 2nd by AJ McKenney to approve sending a letter of opposition to Senator Gordner before May 23rd. All Aye Council President Sue Helwig and Ms. Bachman will be working on the letter together.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:

- Councilman AJ McKenney read the code enforcement report.

POLICE:

- Chief Laidacker reported for the month of April the department responded to (206) calls for service. Chief Laidacker read his report which stated the following:
- The Officers hosted "Chill with a Cop" on April 21st from 1900 to 2100 hours at Woody's Place.
- The department is requesting the purchase of two (2) ballistic vests. One for Corporal Hayes, and one for Officer Kistner. Their current vests are nearing or slightly past the manufacturer expiration.
- May 18th Officers will be attending Community Day at Southern Columbia.

PUBLIC WORKS:

- Public Works Employee Robert Dunkelberger reported sidewalk work started on South Street. Public Works started lawn mowing and there is a lot more to do.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

- A motion was made by Gary Steinruck, 2nd by Roy Klinger to approve Peters Consultants LLC to move forward with the Dry Hydrant Project once the grant contract is received. All Aye
- A motion was made by Gary Steinruck, 2nd by Kevin Ferris to approve the purchase of (2) vests for police officers Hayes and Kistner at a cost of \$2,644.50. All Aye

UTILITIES:

- Committee Chairman Jeff Fleming read the Utilities report.
- A motion was made by Jeff Fleming, 2nd by Roy Klinger to approve donating electric and the use of the borough dumpster to the Susquehanna Valley Watershed Festival for July 30th, 2022. All Aye
- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by AJ McKenney to approve (1) Utilities Committee member going to the Regional Power Supply Conference. All Aye Councilman AJ McKenney volunteered to attend the conference.

PARKS & RECREATION/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

- Dumpster Day has been rescheduled for Saturday May 14th. If Council members are available to help, please let Crystal or Connie know.
- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by Kevin Ferris to approve using \$27,385 of the original American Rescue Funds to cover the 15% match commitment required to apply for a DCED Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program grant for the fitness obstacle course. This match will only be required if the monies cannot be raised from other sources. All Aye
- A motion was made by AJ McKenney, 2nd by Jeff Fleming to approve Resolution 2022-06 regarding Penn Strategies moving forward with the work required to provide tax incentives for borough property owners who make improvements of a to-be-determined amount to their properties. All Aye

PROPERTY & BUILDING MAINTENANCE:

- A motion was made by Gary Steinruck, 2nd by Roy Klinger to approve Sudol Paving & Excavation to repair Berger Ave. from Quinn Ave. to Pine St. at a cost of \$9,200.00. All Aye

FINANCE:

- Nothing to Report.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:

- A motion was made by Jeff Fleming, 2nd by Gary Steinruck to approve holding off on hiring the full-time employee in the Electric Department while the Council investigates contracting out all of the Borough's high voltage, single and 3 phase electrical work, leaving the Borough employees responsible for all the town's street lighting, home service wire hook-ups, all secondary wire changes and maintenance and meters, and coordination with electrical contractors for pole change outs, underground wire issues, bad transformer changes, emergency outage work, etc. All Aye
- A motion was made by AJ McKenney, 2nd by Gary Steinruck to approve re-advertising for the part-time seasonal public works employee. All Aye

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- A motion was made by Kevin Ferris, 2nd by Jeff Fleming to approve adding a 15-minute parking space at 105 South Fourth St. All Aye
- A motion was made by AJ McKenney, 2nd by Gary Steinruck to approve changing the location of the 15-minute parking space at 328 Main St. to 332 Main St. All Aye

NEW BUSINESS:

- A motion was made by Kevin Ferris, 2nd by Jeff Fleming to approve Columbia County PA Lyme Support Group placing tick warning signs in all (4) Borough Parks (Eyer, Catawissa, Cara & Wolfgang). All Aye

FINANCE PAYMENT OF BILLS

- A motion was made by Jeff Fleming, 2nd by AJ McKenney to accept bills as written and any others that may arise before the next council meeting. All Aye

GUESTS TO BE HEARD

- Guest Chief Laidacker informed Council with adding or moving parking signs the Traffic Regulations Ordinance needs to be amended. Attorney Anthony McDonald explained to Council

the ordinance and an inventory of signs should be taken to make sure all signs are on the ordinance to save on cost of redoing the ordinance multiple times.

- Guest John Mensch asked about extra paving to place at the basketball court. Public works employee Robert Dunkelberger explained it will never hold if you just roll it on.
- Attorney Anthony McDonald mentioned he feels the format and lay out of the agenda is excellent.
- Councilman Gary Steinruck mentioned the state inspection was done on the boiler at the Senior Center. We are just waiting on the certificate. Mr. Steinruck also mentioned the lower railroad bridge going across the creek is in bad shape. Code Enforcement Officer Robert Jones contacted the railroad company. A representative from the railroad came to inspect. A meeting with the railroad, Councilman Steinruck and Robert Jones took place. The railroad company doesn't know who owns the bridge. The railroad company is willing to donate the land. Mr. Steinruck feels the Borough does not want this headache. Councilman Kevin Ferris suggested taking the land and removing the bridge for scrap. Attorney Anthony McDonald explained if the bridge is removed Flow Control will want the piers removed and this is costly. A discussion ensued about who owns the property on each side of the bridge. The Borough needs to do more investigating to see who owns the bridge.
- Council President Sue Helwig suggested making a policy on the Borough accepting properties.
- Attorney Anthony McDonald informed Council President Sue Helwig what flood plain properties can and cannot be used for. Ms. Helwig inquired about using the properties for a parking lot. Attorney McDonald stated the property can be used for parking but you cannot put stone down. They must park on grass.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

MEETING ADJOURNED

Submitted by:

Connie M. Cole, Borough Secretary