

CATAWISSA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY June 6th, 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, Roy Klinger, Jeff Fleming, Gary Steinruck, AJ McKenney, Mayor Todd Burke. Via phone: Kevin Ferris

READING OF MINUTES:

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

- Council President Sue Helwig thanked everyone who helped with dumpster day.
- Ms. Helwig thanked Mayor Burke for the Proclamation given to the Catawissa Hose Company #1.
- An announcement was given for Kid's Day June 11th from 11 am – 1 pm at Cara Park, Summer Breeze Concert Series starts June 28th, and a Car Show will be held June 18th at Cara Park.

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Guest Peggy Strunk & Jay Schlegal do not own the bank at 708 Mill Street and will no longer be maintaining it. Council President Sue Helwig stated Council will talk about this.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Nothing to report.

MAYOR:

- Mayor Todd Burke thanked everyone for attending the meeting.
- Mayor Burke read the Proclamation given to Catawissa Hose Company #1 on May 27th. Mayor Burke asked everyone to show their appreciation for the sacrifices the volunteer firefighter's give to help protect our community from fire.

WATER:

- Water Authority Superintendent Cindy Bachman reported Senate Bill 597B regarding water and wastewater systems is possibly to be voted on tomorrow with amendments presented on the floor with no review prior. The bill would still go to the house if approved. Ms. Bachman asked if the bill makes it that far could Council possibly contact Representative Millard to not support the bill.
- Ms. Bachman announced she volunteered to be the point of contact for the dry hydrant project with Chairman of Public Safety being 2nd point of contact and Manager of Administration copied on all correspondence. All of Council was in agreement with the points of contact. Ms. Bachman gave an update of Peters Consultants is working on the bid package for review and specifications.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:

- Councilman AJ McKenney read the code enforcement report.

POLICE:

- Chief Laidacker reported for the month of May the department responded to (189) calls for service. Chief Laidacker read his report which stated the following:
- A cable was replaced on the dashcam in the 2019 vehicle. The camera itself may need replaced. We are waiting on a quote. The vehicle required replacement of tires. This has been taken care of.
- The Officers assisted with Dumpster Day on the 14th of May.
- The department has completed the sign survey as requested by Council. There will need to be a few signs added to the ordinance.
- The Safe Exchange Zone is now open in the Borough parking lot. We are requesting that the parking spots also be added to the sign ordinance.
- Officer McNelis and Chief Laidacker completed mandatory in-service training. The other officers continue with the training.

PUBLIC WORKS:

- Nothing to report.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

- Councilman Andrew Detwiler gave an update on the property leading up to and off of the lower railroad bridge crossing Catawissa Creek. Mr. Detwiler stated the railroad company owns the land which would mean they own the bridge. Councilman Gary Steinruck asked what liability would the Borough have if someone got hurt on the bridge or jumped off. Council President Sue Helwig asked Council if they were in agreement to have Code Enforcement Officer Bob Jones contact the company again and put them on notice that they own the bridge and they need to repair the bridge. All agreed that is a good place to start. Guest John Mensch asked if the Borough Solicitor could be asked if someone got hurt would it be the railroad's issue since it is their property leading up to the bridge on both sides.

UTILITIES:

- Committee Chairman Jeff Fleming read the Utilities report.
- A motion was made by Gary Steinruck, 2nd by Roy Klinger to approve the purchase of (5) LED Street Lights for the cost of \$2058.75. All Aye

PARKS & RECREATION/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

- A motion was made by Jeff Fleming, 2nd by AJ McKenney to approve applying for upcoming DCED Multimodal Grant for Main St. Revitalization Project. All Aye
- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by Jeff Fleming to approve Resolution 2022-07 regarding Submitting a Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program Grant Application to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Office of the Budget for the Catawissa Railroad Station. All Aye Guest Cindy Bachman asked what is the Borough's commitment for this. Council President Sue Helwig stated the Borough will be a pass through. The Borough will monitor the money being passed through the grant. Ms. Bachman asked if the Borough will be liable if on the other end something falls through. Council President Sue Helwig stated there is no liability on the Borough.
- A motion was made by Andrew Detwiler, 2nd by Roy Klinger to approve MSSM Truck Club to hold a car show in Cara Park on June 18th with a rain date of June 25th with the Borough donating the use of electric and the Borough dumpster providing the Borough receives proof liability insurance. All Aye

PROPERTY & BUILDING MAINTENANCE:

- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by Gary Steinruck to approve Verizon to modify existing equipment by removing (3) antennas and (6) RRHs and installing (3) antennas and (6) RRHs. All Aye

FINANCE:

- A motion was made by Gary Steinruck, 2nd by Jeff Fleming to increase coverage by \$5,000 for building & \$4,000 for contents for the Waste Water Treatment Plant at an increased cost of \$24.00, total premium of \$727. All Aye

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:

- Nothing to report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Councilman Gary Steinruck gave an update on the decision of outsourcing the Electric Department. Councilman Steinruck reported he contacted electrical contracting company Hayden of Bloomsburg and they sent over some pricing. Mr. Steinruck suggested having a meeting with Superintendent Chase Petty, Public Works Union Representative Bob Dunkelberger and Hayden to get a clear line of what work is expected and being out sourced. Council President Sue Helwig reported this started with Personnel and Utilities Committees and it was determined this should fall under Finance Committee for review.
- An update given for the Waste Water Treatment Plant. Councilman Gary Steinruck reported he spoke with Larson Design and was informed they started the work on the scope of work when Borough Manager Larry Kopp was here. Mr. Kopp told Larson that he would finish the work to save the Borough some money. Councilman Steinruck stated Larson thinks there is still an invoice that needs to be paid in the amount of \$7,000 to \$8,000. Council President Sue Helwig asked Manager of Administration Connie Cole to see if Larson design had already been paid \$20,000 for the work that has already been done. Ms. Cole state she would get with Treasurer Nancy Yost so Ms. Yost can research the information. After a brief discussion Council made a decision to move forward with having the scope of work and bid package done as voted on at a previous meeting using the \$20,000 from the sewer fund. Councilman Gary Steinruck is going to contact Larson Design to give them approval to move forward.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A motion was made by Jeff Fleming, 2nd by Andrew Detwiler to approve July, August and September Council meetings being moved back to the Borough Hall due to lack of air conditioning in the Community Center. All Aye
- Council President Sue Helwig asked Council members to submit any ordinances they want to be updated or rescinded this year for discussion at the July meeting. Councilman Gary Steinruck brought up the cost of codification and publication costs associated with changing too many ordinances. Council President Sue Helwig suggested speaking with Borough Solicitor Anthony McDonald before Council does anything.

FINANCE PAYMENT OF BILLS

- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 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

- Guest Cindy Bachman reminded Council there is a 15% match for the Flood Mitigation grant being used for the dry hydrant project. Ms. Bachman informed Council the Rescue Funds can be used for the match. Council President Sue Helwig stated once the Borough receives word about the LSA grant decisions will need to be made on where to allocate the Rescue Funds.
- Ms. Bachman asked if the Multimodal Grant plans had been changed because the residents were not in favor of the bump outs in the original plans. Council President Sue Helwig stated the Borough will not receive the full grant and the plans can be modified to the amount of funds you are awarded.
- Guest Peggy Strunk asked if the Borough Office was giving customers expressing financial difficulty information on LIHEAP and LIWAP. Manager of Administration Connie Cole stated a list of agencies that can help customers in financial need are read to any customer stating they are having difficulty. Council President Sue Helwig also informed Ms. Strunk the LIHEAP information is on the Borough website, Community Facebook page and on the bulletin board in the Borough Hall lobby.

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