

CATAWISSA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY August 8th, 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, Jeff Fleming, Gary Steinruck, AJ McKenney, Andrew Detwiler, Mayor Todd Burke, Attorney Anthony McDonald, via phone Roy Klinger, Kevin Ferris arrived at 6:42 p.m.

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 the Borough had a successful Summer Breeze Concert Series this year. Ms. Helwig thanked Nancy Yost for organizing the Series, Pastor Mike for hosting a concert and all the employees who helped with the Summer Breeze.
- Ms. Helwig stated the Watershed Festival was very nice.
- An announcement was given that progress was being made on the upgrades for the Waste Water Treatment Plant.

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Guest Peggy Strunk of 708 Mill Street inquired about mowing of the bank between her property and Mill Street. Ms. Strunk was informed the property is owned by PennDot. Borough Solicitor Anthony McDonald explained the situation he saw on documents for the property and provided some recommendations for the bank vegetation issue. The Borough is going to seek permission from PennDot to plant a ground covering plant that will not grow high but will keep out weeds. Ms. Strunk asked how long that will take. Councilman Steinruck stated a time frame could not be given, but an application was already started for PennDot. Ms. Strunk requested PennDot's contact information so she can call them herself. Councilman Steinruck is to gather the information and get it to Ms. Strunk. Councilman Andrew Detwiler stated he would like to just let it go.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Borough Manager of Administration Connie Cole informed Council the Borough received a donation from Clair Kingston and the Kitchen Family for use of the Pavilions at Cara Park for their family reunions.
- The Borough also received a donation from Laura Rhone for the kindness the Borough Zoning Officer showed her.
- Ms. Cole thanked Barb Reese for her donation of items for Senior Day.
- Ms. Cole also thanked Pastor Mike with the Catawissa Christian Church for hosting a Summer Breeze Concert due to inclement weather and his assistance with each concert held at the Catawissa Park.

MAYOR:

- Mayor Burke thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

WATER:

- Water Authority Superintendent Cindy Bachman informed Council the House Environmental & Energy Committee held an informational meeting for Senate Bill 597 for different views to be presented. The Committee has not voted on the bill yet.
- Ms. Bachman stated the Water Conservation District would like to hold the festival at Cara Park again. They liked the set up and thought they had a good turn out with not much advertising.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:

- Councilman AJ McKenney read the code enforcement report.

POLICE:

- Chief Laidacker reported for the month of July the department responded to (202) calls for service. Chief Laidacker read his report which stated the following:
- The 2014 Sedan was taken for regular service and inspection.
- The department received correspondence from the Halloween Parade Committee with this year's date. The Department will need a vote to apply to close Main Street as well as a budget for food for the volunteers.
- The Department is requesting the purchase of a replacement camera for the Dash Cam in the SUV. The estimate is enclosed in the agenda packet.
- Yearly updates are completed by all officers.

PUBLIC WORKS:

- Nothing to report.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

- An emergency electronic vote was taken on July 24th, 2022 for O'Neil Excavating, Inc. to repair a stormwater line which caused a sink hole opening on Mill St. for a cost of \$18,000 to \$20,000. 6 Aye, 1 Nay; Roy Klinger Motion carried Work was completed immediately.
- A motion to approve O'Neil Excavating for the stormwater line repair being paid from American Rescue Funds was made by Gary Steinruck, 2nd by Andrew Detwiler. All Aye
- A motion to approve the purchase of a replacement camera for the Dash Cam in the SUV at a cost of \$630.00 was made by Jeff Fleming, 2nd by Andrew Detwiler. All Aye
- A motion to approve the repair of the Fire Company Siren for a cost of \$888.50 with a recommended additional (2) batteries to aid in the longevity of batteries installed at an additional cost of \$626.00 for a total of \$1,514.50 was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by Jeff Fleming. Councilman Gary Steinruck read a quote to purchase the batteries cheaper through another vendor. Councilman Andrew Detwiler inquired why the Borough needed two sirens. A motion was made by Jeff Fleming, 2nd by Andrew Detwiler to table the matter until further information can be gathered. 6 Aye; 1 Nay, AJ McKenney

UTILITIES:

- Committee Chairman Jeff Fleming read the Utilities report providing open and closed balances for electric/sewer accounts and meters that were pulled from service.
- A motion to approve the purchase of a Wet Well Mixer from Kappe Associates Inc. at a cost of \$4400.00 was made by Gary Steinruck, 2nd by Jeff Fleming. All Aye
- A motion to approve the purchase of (10) Residential Street Lights for \$718.15 was made by AJ McKenney, 2nd by Gary Steinruck. All Aye

PARKS & RECREATION/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

- A motion to approve Saturday October 29th, 2022 and all accompanying road closures for the Catawissa Halloween Parade with a rain date of Sunday October 30th was made by Andrew Detwiler, 2nd by Roy Klinger. All Aye
- A motion to approve Chief Laidacker to apply for a detour permit for the Halloween Parade was made by Gary Steinruck, 2nd by Roy Klinger. All Aye
- A motion to approve Catawissa Christian Church to hold their Winterfest on Sunday December 4th, 2022 at Cara Park with the Borough donating electric for the event was made by Andrew Detwiler, 2nd by Roy Klinger. All Aye

PROPERTY & BUILDING MAINTENANCE:

- Committee Chairman Kevin Ferris reported he will be composing quote guidelines for the repair of the portico roof.

FINANCE:

- A motion to approve reinvesting the CD that expires August 24th, 2022 at the best rate offered was made by Andrew Detwiler, 2nd by Roy Klinger. All Aye.
- A motion to invest the American Rescue Funds in an interest-bearing checking account was made by Gary Steinruck, 2nd by Roy Klinger. Councilman AJ McKenney asked how much money was being talked about. Council President Sue Helwig explained all of the money would be invested to earn some interest until a decision is made how to spend it. All Aye
- A motion to approve taking the interest disbursement from the Eyer Fund was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by Jeff Fleming. All Aye.
- A motion to approve a donation of \$2,000.00 to the Halloween Parade Committee was made by Jeff Fleming, 2nd by Roy Klinger. All Aye
- A motion to approve \$102,349.00 for Non-Uniform Pension Plan Minimum Municipal Obligation for 2023 was made by AJ McKenney, 2nd by Jeff Fleming. Councilman Gary Steinruck requested to table the matter because he feels the numbers are high. Attorney Anthony McDonald reminded Council that for the last 10 -15 years the Borough did not put enough money into the pension plan which caused a deficit. Attorney Anthony McDonald asked Manager of Administration Connie Cole if she recalled what the reason was that enough money was not put in. Ms. Cole stated there was a line item on the report from the Actuary that Council misinterpreted, so the correct amount was not put in the pension by the Borough. Councilman Detwiler explained this is the minimum to put in the pension and at budget time if there are extra funds the Borough can put more in to cover the deficit. Attorney Anthony McDonald suggested the figures of deficit for each pension plan be obtained from the Actuary and make a 10-year plan to take care of the deficit. Councilman Gary Steinruck stated the amounts that were put in the pension was provided to previous to Council by the Actuary. Councilman Detwiler stated to vote to do the minimum and at budget time more funds can be put in the pensions if funds are available. Attorney Anthony McDonald stated he agreed with Mr. Detwiler and suggested Council make a 10-year plan to repay the deficit. Attorney McDonald and Council President asked Manager of Administration Connie Cole to get figures from the Actuary and to look through the minutes to see what figures were given for the deficit. Councilman Gary Steinruck stated what makes the numbers look funky is because we added (2) Police Officers and (3) Office Staff and changed the pension plan. Manager of Administration Connie Cole stated you gain more state aid adding more people into the pension. Councilman Kevin Ferris stated that's correct. All Aye
- A motion to approve \$68,373.00 for Police Pension Plan Minimum Municipal Obligation Budget for 2023 was made by Gary Steinruck, 2nd by Jeff Fleming. All Aye

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:

- Committee Member Sue Helwig reported a meeting is in the process of being set up to start labor relations discussions.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Employee Crystal Stoker gave an update on trapping of the Borough Feral Cats. Crystal mentioned there is a lady doing trapping at First street. This person sets up an appointment a month in advance with the clinic next to the SPCA. Then the week of the appointment the lady tries to trap a cat. If she traps one then she does, if she doesn't, she doesn't. Council President Sue Helwig mentioned the feral cat problem may not be as big as people think. A bunch of cats have already been trapped, neutered and released back to where they were caught. Those cats can no longer procreate and will die off.
- Councilman Andrew Detwiler updated Council on the Dry Hydrant Project. Mr. Detwiler informed Council the prints received from Peters Consultants were wrong, needed written corrections were sent to Peters so now he is waiting for the corrections to be made.
- Mr. Detwiler and Water Authority Cindy Bachman informed Council that storms from last Friday forced the large rocks that formed the buffer spot into the dry hydrant. The Water Authority removed the rocks from the dry hydrant, there was no damage and the dry hydrant is back in service.
- Council President Sue Helwig thanked Councilman Jeff Fleming, Streets Superintendent and her son for cleaning up fallen trees and branches after the storm.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Required NIMS training is only available August 30th between 2 p.m. – 4p.m. & 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. It is imperative all of Council attends. If every Council Member does not take this required training the Borough will not be eligible for FEMA Funds in the event of a disaster. All certificates of completion must be turned into the Manager of Administration.

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

- Pastor Mike with the Catawissa Christian Church thanked Council for the wonderful opportunity to use Cara Park for the Winterfest. Pastor Mike also announced Senior Day for Thursday September 8th, 2022 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Pastor Mike asked Council to consider funding the meal for Senior Day.
- Chief Laidacker reported to Council computer issues (full memory capacity, losing reporting, etc) the Department is having with their main computer that holds all of the reporting and access to other Police Department's systems. Chief Laidacker told Council he has someone looking to see if anything can be done to fix the issues.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

MEETING ADJOURNED

Submitted by:

Connie M. Cole, Manager of Administration