

CATAWISSA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY September 12th, 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, Roy Klinger, Kevin Ferris, Attorney Anthony McDonald

READING OF MINUTES:

- A motion was made by Jeff Fleming, 2nd by Gary Steinruck to dispense reading of and approve minutes of the August 8th, 2022 Council Meeting. All Aye
- A motion was made by Jeff Fleming, 2nd by AJ McKenney to dispense reading of and approve minutes of the September 6th, 2022 Special Meeting. All Aye

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

- Council President Sue Helwig gave an update on grants that the Borough has applied for. Grants that we are waiting on decisions for are: Fitness Equipment, Waste Water Treatment Plant, Main Streetscaping and the Catawissa Train Station Project.
- Ms. Helwig stated Council will need to decide next month or November's meeting where to spend the covid funds.
- An announcement was made that an Executive Session would be held right after the regular Council Meeting to discuss a personnel issue.
- Council Members were asked to be mindful of reading emails daily and getting in committee meeting minutes to Connie, Manager of Administration.
- Ms. Helwig thanked Pastor Mike with the Catawissa Christian Church, Debra Dombroski and the Senior Center, Borough Employees Connie Cole and Nancy Yost, Councilman Detwiler, Mayor Burke, State Representative Millard, Commissioner Ridgway, Linda Kashner and Barb Reese for donating prizes and anyone else Ms. Helwig may have missed for making our Senior Day a very enjoyable day for our Seniors.

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- No guests to be heard

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Borough Manager of Administration Connie Cole informed Council the Borough received a donation from the Letterman Reunion for the use of the pavilion. The Letterman Reunion requested the donation be used to provide gift cards for Senior Day. (5) \$10.00 Weis Gift Cards were purchased with the funds for Senior Day.
- She would like to thank Linda Kashner for all the bingo prizes she donated for Senior Day.
- She would like to thank Pastor Mike and the Catawissa Christian Church for hosting Senior Day.

WATER:

- Water Authority Superintendent Cindy Bachman informed DEP issued on August 24th a voluntary 5-10% cut back on nonessential water use for Columbia County.
- Ms. Bachman reported (2) of their wells are showing an ever so slight reduction in production.
- Ms. Bachman also reported on Oct 10th there will not be hydrant flushing. They will be doing blow offs and low flow areas to make sure those hydrants are functioning properly.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:

- Councilman AJ McKenney read the code enforcement report.

POLICE:

- Chief Laidacker reported for the month of August the department responded to (197) calls for service. Chief Laidacker read his report which stated the following:
- Officer McNelis got married and is now Officer Reedy.
- The 2019 SUV was taken for regular service and inspection.
- The dash camera in the SUV was replaced.
- The department would like to thank the VFW for its donation during the month of August.
- On the 23rd of August, Officer Reedy responded to a call of a 3-year-old choking victim. Officer Reedy arrived on scene in less than one minute and was able to dislodge the item, resulting in the child breathing normally. The Mayor and Chief of Police have awarded Officer Reedy a Letter of

Commendation and the Department's Life Saving Award for her response. Chief Laidacker stated they are very proud of her actions that night they were tremendous.

- Council President Sue Helwig asked if on the behalf of Council could Chief Laidacker pass along to her congratulations and job well done.

PUBLIC WORKS:

- Waste Water Treatment Plant Operator Robert Dunkelberger report O'Neil Excavating will be pouring concrete on Wednesday September 14th to finish the Mill Street project.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

- A motion was made by Gary Steinruck, 2nd by Roy Klinger to approve \$400.00 for the annual meal provided for volunteers that help with crowd and traffic control for the Halloween Parade.
- A motion was made by Jeff Fleming, 2nd by Gary Steinruck to approve pursuing quotes for a generator for the Police Department. Councilman Gary Steinruck made Chief of Police aware that a grant packet was given to Mayor Burke. Chief replied he has received a packet for the grants. Councilman Steinruck and President Helwig informed Chief Laidacker that Penn Strategies will help do most of the work for the grant submission. All Aye
- A motion was made by Jeff Fleming, 2nd by Gary Steinruck to approve awarding Waste Water Treatment Plant Project to Larson Design's recommendation of Environmental Services Corp. contingent upon Environmental Services Corp. meeting Larson Designs requirements and Solicitor Anthony McDonald reviews and approves of Payment and Performance Bond. All Aye
Councilman Steinruck read off the bids from lowest to highest.
 - Environmental Service Corp. \$234,630.00
 - PSI Pumping Solutions, Inc. \$327,154.00
 - JP Environmental, LLC \$383,000.00
 - Greenland Construction, Inc. \$411,000.00
 - Linde Corporation \$474,948.00

UTILITIES:

- Committee Chairman Jeff Fleming read the Utilities report providing open and closed balances for electric/sewer accounts. Mr. Fleming also reported how many late notices were mailed for the month of August.
- A motion was made by Jeff Fleming, 2nd by AJ McKenney to approve Electric Superintendent Chase Petty to attend PPL Electric Borough Forum on Friday November 4th, 2022 in Allentown with mileage paid plus a food stipend if meals are not provided. All Aye

PARKS & RECREATION/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

- A motion was made by Gary Steinruck, 2nd by Jeff Fleming to approve Resolution 2022-09 regarding a Borough-Wide Tax Exemption for New Construction and Renovations Under the Local Economic Revitalization Tax Assistance Act. Council President Sue Helwig explained the resolution provides the Borough the means to provide an incentive for Property Owners who make improvements of \$10,000 or more to their property. Property Owners taxes would only increase 10% each year for 10 years. Ms. Helwig explained one more entity in Southern Columbia School District or Columbia County must adopt the LERTA Tax Assistance Act before the Borough to be able to start the Program. All Aye
- A motion was made by Jeff Fleming, 2nd by Kevin Ferris to approve the purchase of (1) Handicap Porta Potty for \$950.00 to be placed at the New Pavilion at Catawissa Park and (1) Regular Porta Potty for \$300.00 to be placed at the Teener Field. Councilman Ferris asked why the Borough is not renting them. Connie Cole, Manager of Administration stated to keep them long term it is cheaper to purchase the porta potties. All Aye

FINANCE:

- A motion was made by Gary Steinruck, 2nd by Jeff Fleming to approve opening a new account for monies awarded from Columbia County Commissioners in the form of a grant to be used for the Sewer Plant repairs. President Helwig stated this is to monitor the funds being spent because it needs to be reported. All Aye
- A motion was made by Gary Steinruck, 2nd by Jeff Fleming to approve hiring Hayden Power on an as needed basis to assist the Electric Department instead of hiring another Electric Department Employee. All Aye President Helwig thanked Public Works for helping work on this project.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:

- A motion was made by Kevin Ferris, 2nd by Jeff Fleming to accept the resignation of George Snyder effective September 16th, 2022. All Aye

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Water Authority Superintendent Cindy Bachman reported a setback on the Dry Hydrant Project on behalf of the Public Safety Committee. Ms. Bachman informed Council the case manager for the Project

with Peter's Consultant resigned and the new Case Manager is Angela Slusser. Dennis Peters submitted the questions for review and one of the questions was can the dry hydrant pipe be moved upstream. A new survey would need to be completed and changing of the plans. The cost of permits and moving the dry hydrant increased the cost to \$5,500. Ms. Bachman reported the committee approved Peters moving forward because the 15% match was lower than the \$700 threshold for a PO. Dennis Peters did report the new location is a foot and a half deeper so the new location should work. Mr. Peters is in the process of making all the changes with the documents and drawings. Ms. Bachman asked Mr. Peters if he would have something ready for the next Public Safety Meeting. Council was reminded by Ms. Bachman and Connie Cole there is a 15% match for the Dry Hydrant Project so please keep this in mind when allotting the Rescue Funds.

- A motion was made by Gary Steinruck, 2nd by AJ McKenney to approve payment of \$113.42 to Woody's Place for the Senior Day meal. All Aye
- Councilman Gary Steinruck stated this seems to be a unique situation at 708 Mill Street bank. Mr. Steinruck feels the Borough should do something about the bank because the property owners at 708 Mill Street do not want to maintain the bank. Guest Cindy Bachman asked Mr. Steinruck was questioned if Council does something there what about other properties in the borough. Attorney Anthony McDonald stated good luck getting PennDot to do something. Councilman Jeff Fleming stated if we do not own it then I say we do nothing. Councilman Ferris asked if the Borough can go on the property and do something. Solicitor McDonald said sure. Mr. Ferris asked about getting quotes to have a landscaper do some work on the bank. Councilman Steinruck stated he would like to see (2) different color stone be brought in and spell out Catawissa. Guest Cindy Bachman asked if it would be a concern of liability to go do work on PennDot property without permission or permitting and a possibility of a stone sliding off the bank into the highway. Guest Pat Hess stated everyone else is maintaining their bank there and she can't imagine they own the bank either. Ms. Hess feels it is just an issue they don't want to maintain anything. Councilman Roy Klinger suggested going through Senator Gordner to get support to do work on the 708 Mill Street Bank. Attorney McDonald suggested getting pricing before contacting Senator Gordner. Council President Sue Helwig asked Connie Cole, Manager of Administration to get quotes. Guest Cindy Bachman asked what is going to happen when all the other property owners have PennDot owned banks refuse to take care of their bank. Is the Borough prepared to do it for everyone? President Helwig stated Council is not approving anything just getting quotes. Manager of Administration Connie Cole asked what is she getting quotes for? Just 708 Mill Street or the whole Street Bank incase everyone wants their property done. A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by Jeff Fleming to send this to the Parks & Recreation Committee for review. All Aye
- Councilman Roy Klinger gave an update on the following items for the Public Safety Committee:
 1. Contractor is waiting on concrete for the sink hole behind the United Methodist Church. O'Neil Excavating is going to dump excess concrete from the Mill Street project in the hole.
 2. The siren is being looked at for the possibility to hard wire it into the Catawissa Hose Company #1.
 3. Councilman Detwiler and Manager of Administration Connie Cole attended a webinar this week for setting up a Safety Committee Program to receive 5% discount on Workman's Comp Insurance.
 - 4.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A motion was made by Jeff Fleming, 2nd by AJ McKenney to approve Ordinance 02-2022 regarding An Ordinance TO TERMINATE, CANCEL AND END ORDINANCE NUMBERS 3-2020 AND 2-2022, ORDINANCES OF CATAWISSA BOROUGH ESTABLISHING AND AMENDING RESIDENTIAL RENTAL PROPERTY REGISTRATION, LICENSING, AND OCCUPANCY SYSTEM, SETTING FORTH REQUIREMENTS AND OBLIGATIONS ON THE PART OF LANDLORDS AND TENANTS, ESTABLISHING A MANNER OF ENFORCEMENT AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR THE VIOLATION OF REQUIREMENTS. All Aye
- A motion was made by Jeff Fleming, 2nd by Gary Steinruck to approve Trick or Treating in the Borough on Monday October 31, 2022 from 6p.m. to 8p.m. All Aye

FINANCE PAYMENT OF BILLS

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

GUESTS TO BE HEARD

- Guest Daniel May thanked the Borough for the work done on Berger Ave.
- Chief Laidacker reported Spotted Lantern Flies are in the borough if they are seen you are to kill them. Guests in the audience shared their sightings/killing of the Spotted Lantern Flies within the Borough.

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