

CATAWISSA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY October 10th, 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, Kevin Ferris, Mayor Todd Burke, Attorney Anthony McDonald, via phone Andrew Detwiler and Roy Klinger

READING OF MINUTES:

- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by AJ McKenney to dispense reading of and approve minutes of the September 16th, 2022 Council Meeting. All Aye

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

- Council President Sue Helwig reported she attended a meeting with the County Commissioners regarding the LERTA Tax incentive. The County Commissioners will make a decision as to whether they are on board in the next two weeks. The Borough's grant writers are giving the same presentation to the Southern Columbia School Board this evening.
- Ms. Helwig announced the Borough Hall will be closing at noon on October 21st and 24th.
- Walt Gosciminski shared copies of the PCNTV interview on the Catawissa Railroad. Copies of the interview will be available at the Borough Hall and in the book stand outside the Borough Hall if anyone is interested in viewing the recording.

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- Guest Ammon Young with the Columbia County Traveling Library gave a presentation regarding opening a library branch in the Catawissa Chiropractic building located on Main Street in Catawissa. Mr. Young explained the different features the library will have to offer. Mr. Young was requesting \$1500.00 from Catawissa Borough for the upcoming year to get established. Mr. Young stated the library will be returning for support from year to year.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Manager of Administration Connie Cole read the following correspondence:
- The Borough received notice the Cara Park Fitness Course was not selected for funding under the Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program.
- The Borough's estimated Liquid Fuels allocation for 2023 is \$51,188.74.
- DEP is looking for support for plugging abandoned wells throughout PA. Information provided by DEP has been posted on the Borough website and Facebook.
- \$88,067.68 was received from the General Municipal Pension System State Aid on September 28th, 2022.

MAYOR:

- Mayor Burke thanked everyone for attending the meeting.
- Trick or Treat will take place on October 31st from 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. Mayor Burke announced he will be walking with the Police handing out candy.
- Mayor Burke informed guests Catawissa Christian Church will be holding a Trunk or Treat on October 31st from 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. also.

WATER:

- Water Authority Superintendent Cindy Bachman informed Council the state still has the drought watch on for 36 counties.
- The new location for the dry hydrant has been approved by the Public Safety Committee. Peters Consultants have been advised to move forward with the changes.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:

- Councilman AJ McKenney read the code enforcement report.

POLICE:

- Chief Laidacker reported for the month of September the department responded to (199) calls for service. Chief Laidacker read his report which stated the following:
- The 2014 sedan had the battery replaced after the car failed to start.
- The department replaced the main patrol computer using donation money from the Catawissa VFW. Chief Laidacker thanked the VFW for their donation.
- Chief met with the Parks and Recreation committee referencing issues with Wolfgang Park.
- Halloween Parade preparations continue.
- Chief has been working with Penn Strategies on the 2022 PCCD Grant.

PUBLIC WORKS:

- A motion was made by Jeff Fleming, 2nd by AJ McKenney to approve Simons Masonry to repair the concrete slab that covers the main storm drain on Kline Ave. for a cost of \$2878.00. Councilman Steinruck asked if there were any other quotes. There were not. Mr. Steinruck expressed he feels it is good business to have more than (1) quote. Council President Sue Helwig abstained since the repair is next to her property. 6 Aye Motion carries

PUBLIC SAFETY:

- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by AJ McKenney to approve authorizing Notice to Proceed for the Waste Water Treatment Plant Remediation Project to Environmental Service Corp. All Aye
- A motion was made by Jeff Fleming, 2nd by Gary Steinruck to approve the 2022-2023 Winter Maintenance Agreement with PennDOT. All Aye
- A motion was made by Kevin Ferris, 2nd by Jeff Fleming to approve Whistle Stop Fence Co. to repair the fencing at the Catawissa Dam for a cost of \$1,967.00. All Aye

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 September.

PARKS & RECREATION/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

- A motion was made by AJ McKenney, 2nd by Jeff Fleming to approve Resolution 2022-10 Authorizing the Submission of a Community Parks and Recreation Grant Application to the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. Council President Sue Helwig announced the grant would be for the CARA Park Fitness Course. All Aye
- A motion was made by Jeff Fleming, 2nd by Andrew Detwiler to approve the Catawissa Borough Police utilizing community service in lieu of trespass citation for those found to be breaking the Borough Park rules, and to ban those who are required to do community service or who have trespass violation from the park for a period of time determined by the Police. Chief Laidacker explained the department was looking for a vote of unity from Council to utilize the no trespass for repeat offenders as the department

sees fit. After a brief discussion Councilman Fleming and Detwiler rescind their motion. A motion was made by Kevin Ferris, 2nd by Jeff Fleming authorizing Catawissa Borough Police Department utilizing a no trespass order to ban trespassers for a period of time the Police see fit. All Aye

- A motion was made by AJ McKenney, 2nd by Jeff Fleming to approve obtaining quotes for putting automatic water turn offs in the bathrooms at CARA Park. All Aye
- A motion was made by Andrew Detwiler, 2nd by Jeff Fleming to approve obtaining quotes for adding concession stands to CARA Park, and to look for grants for this purpose. Councilman Gary Steinruck informed Council that water must run through the structures and utilities need to be above flood level. All Aye
- A motion was made by Jeff Fleming, 2nd by Kevin Ferris to have Catawissa Borough Police enforce the 2-hour parking limit on Main Street. Guest Richard Brassard spoke about his concern with having the police spend time watching a parked car for 2 hours and how it will take away from the safety of the rest of the borough. Chief Laidacker expressed how much time his officers could have invested in one (1) vehicle to get a \$5.00 parking ticket. Chief Laidacker also stated he can't authorize his officers to touch someone's vehicle. Chief Laidacker suggested putting a part-time officer on to just watch the 2-hour parking. Attorney McDonald stated it is legal to chalk tires in Pennsylvania but whether it is a good idea or not he will let it up to the Chief to tell Council that because he is the Police Officer. Attorney McDonald stated he will not second guess a police officer with Chief's experience. Councilman Ferris suggests a warning card being placed under a wiper. A motion was made by Jeff Fleming, 2nd by Andrew Detwiler to table the issue for the committee to review. All Aye
- A motion was made by Jeff Fleming, 2nd by Kevin Ferris to approve removing lines/boxes on streets that cause confusion with parking. Guest Richard Brassard spoke of a parking space made specifically for a business years ago with a 15-minute parking sign and a white box around it. Mr. Brassard stated outside his barber shop use to be a sign that stated 2-hour parking. Now there is confusion for Mr. Brassard's customers seeing the 2-hour parking is no longer there and was switched with the 15 min parking sign from the white boxed spot on Main and Fox Ave. Mr. Brassard questioned Council why the 2-hour and 15-min parking signs were switched. Chief Laidacker requested when street signs are changed, please inform the department. Streets Superintendent Crystal Stoker reported PennDOT will be micro-resurfacing Main St. so all parking lines will be gone. Ms. Stoker recommended not doing anything with the parking line/boxes beforehand. Councilman Fleming and Ferris rescinded their motion. A motion was made by Kevin Ferris, 2nd by Gary Steinruck to approve 2-hour parking from Fox Ave. to Cracker Barrel and the 15-minute parking spot to the right of Fox Ave. on Main St. All Aye
Streets Superintendent Crystal Stoker asked Council if she was to put the 2-hour and 15 min parking signs back to where they formally were. Council told her "Yes".

FINANCE:

- A motion was made by Gary Steinruck, 2nd by AJ McKenney to approve Resolution 2022-11 regarding PSAB Municipal Retirement Trust for Non-union Non-uniform Employees. 6 Aye; 1-Nay Andrew Detwiler Motion carries
- A motion was made by Jeff Fleming, 2nd by Andrew Detwiler to approve Interim Treasurer Connie Cole with the authority to sign purchase orders up to \$500.00. All Aye
- A motion was made by Gary Steinruck, 2nd by AJ McKenney to approve Resolution 2022-12 regarding the Reduction of Police Officers' Contributions to the Uniformed Pension Plan for the year 2023. All Aye
- A motion was made by Gary Steinruck, 2nd by AJ McKenney to approve hiring Lori Enbright, Treasurer for Rupert to prepare Catawissa Borough's budget at a rate of \$25/hr. 6 Aye; 1-Nay, Andrew Detwiler Motion carries
- A motion was made by Gary Steinruck, 2nd by Kevin Ferris to approve allocating \$1,500.00 plus giving a \$500.00 donation to the Columbia County Traveling Library to help the library get established at 353 Main Street. Councilman Andrew Detwiler made the motion to table the issue. Mr. Detwiler would like Council to have the authority to approve all the books and materials in the library. Mr. Ammon Young with the

Columbia County Traveling Library explained that financial contributions to the library do not come with strings attached. All books and materials are chosen by Mr. Young. The motion to table the motion died due to no second. A vote was taken on the original motion. 6-Aye; 1-Nay Andrew Detwiler Motion carries Mr. Ammon Young thanked Council for the extra \$500.00 donation

- A motion was made by Gary Steinruck, 2nd by Jeff Fleming to approve Computation to move Quickbooks to the server, add another user, install a monthly back up program for the server and (3) work stations that Computation will monitor for a cost of \$1344.99 with a monthly fee of \$125.00 for the backup service. All Aye

PERSONNEL:

- A motion was made by AJ McKenney, 2nd by Gary Steinruck to accept the Notice of Retirement for Sewage Enforcement Officer Gene Powlus effective December 31st, 2022. All Aye
- A motion was made by Kevin Ferris, 2nd by Jeff Fleming to approve authorizing up to 10 hours a month for over time for Connie Cole, while a Treasurer is being hired. Councilman Kevin Ferris asked if that is enough. Councilman Jeff Fleming stated he felt 10 hours was not enough. Councilman Gary Steinruck stated he felt it is ridiculous to give only 10 hours to do another person's job. Councilman Ferris and Fleming amended their motion to authorizing over time as needed while a Treasurer is being hired. All Aye
- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by Kevin Ferris to approve the following changes to the hiring policy:
 1. Replace II.A.3 with "Applications will be accepted until a suitable candidate is identified. Interviewing will begin when a suitable pool is established and will continue until a suitable candidate is found"
 2. Replace B.1 with "A copy of all applications will be forwarded to the interviewing committee."
 3. Replace B.2 with "The Manager of Administration shall receive and date stamp all applications."
 4. Remove 3.
 5. Add to the end of B.4 "by the interviewing committee."
 6. Remove "six (6)" from C.

6-Aye, 1-Nay Gary Steinruck Motion carries

- A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by Gary Steinruck to approve re-advertising the Treasurer position due to limited candidate pool. All Aye
- A motion was made by Andrew Detwiler, 2nd by Roy Klinger to approve hiring a Part-Time Laborer to be called in as needed by the AFSCME Union Employees. Councilman Jeff Fleming asked how much will Council be paying this person. Councilman Steinruck replied \$13.00/hr. Councilman Fleming felt that is a waste of time and money to advertise. Streets Superintendent Crystal Stoker stated the Borough couldn't find a part-time grass mower. Council President Sue Helwig asked Councilman Roy Klinger if this topic was discussed with the AFSCME employees. Councilman Klinger stated yes it was discussed with Bob Dunkelberger. Mr. Dunkelberger explained he told Councilman Klinger what was stated in the contract that the Borough can have half the number of part-time employees as full-time employees that is all. A motion was made by Roy Klinger, 2nd by Gary Steinruck to table the subject. All Aye

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Council President Sue Helwig announced in spring of 2023 CARA Park bathrooms will be opened in the morning by Public Works Employees. Maybe inspected at the end of the day by a Water Authority employee and locked at dusk.
- A motion was made by Kevin Ferris, 2nd by Jeff Fleming to not address landscaping on the Mill Street bank as it is owned by PennDOT. 6-Aye; 1-Nay Gary Steinruck Motion carries

- A motion was made by AJ McKenney, 2nd by Jeff Fleming to table allocating covid funds. All Aye

NEW BUSINESS:

FINANCE PAYMENT OF BILLS

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

GUESTS TO BE HEARD

- Street Superintendent Crystal Stoker stated the cement work on Kline Ave by Simons Masonry may not be completed until spring because of the concrete being able to dry. Ms. Stoker asked Council if they would like her to contact Simons Masonry to inform Simons, they were approved. Council stated "Yes". Ms. Stoker also asked who is going to contact Whistle Stop Fencing regarding the fence repair at the dam. Councilman Kevin Ferris stated he would.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

MEETING ADJOURNED

Submitted by:

Connie M. Cole
Manager of Administration