

**CATAWISSA BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY October 19th, 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, Gary Steinruck, AJ McKenney, Kevin Ferris, via phone Mayor Todd Burke

READING OF MINUTES:

- A motion was made by Gary Steinruck, 2nd by AJ McKenney to dispense reading of and approve minutes of the October 10th, 2022 Council Meeting. All Aye

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

- Council President Sue Helwig reported the person previously approved to prepare the 2023 budget works for another municipality and their solicitor did not recommend her to do the budget. A new person will be voted on tonight to prepare the budget. Ms. Helwig thanked the new person for taking on preparing the budget at a reduced price.

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- No guest to be heard.

PARKS & RECREATION/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

- A motion was made by AJ McKenney, 2nd by Kevin Ferris to approve a master site plan development of CARA Park for the Community Parks and Recreation Grant Application regarding the CARA Park Fitness Course Project. 1-Aye; Sue Helwig, 3-Nay Motion does not carry

FINANCE:

- A motion was made by Kevin Ferris, 2nd by AJ McKenney to approve getting (3) verbal/written bids at \$2,500.00 up to \$11,799.00. After a discussion of requirements for projects/purchases, a motion was made by AJ McKenney, 2nd by Gary Steinruck to approve (3) verbal/written bids for any purchases \$2,500.00 up to \$11,799.00 except for emergencies, security reasons or in cases soliciting for bids will create a financial burden on the Borough. All Aye
- A motion was made by Kevin Ferris, 2nd by Gary Steinruck to approve Linda Kashner to prepare the 2023 budget at a cost not to exceed \$599.99. All Aye

PERSONNEL:

- A motion was made by AJ McKenney, 2nd by Kevin Ferris to accept the resignation of Police Officer David Krape effective Monday October 31st, 2022. All Aye
- A motion was made by Kevin Ferris, 2nd by AJ McKenney to approve advertising for a Full-Time Police Officer. Council President Sue Helwig told Chief Laidacker she had something to say about this. Ms. Helwig expressed how she remains very concerned with not seeming to come together on somethings she considers important, like the parking ordinance. An ordinance that the Borough is not enforcing. Ms. Helwig stated she was thinking of going negative on this motion just to be obstinate. But Ms. Helwig stated she doesn't want to be like that. Ms. Helwig is hoping Council and the Police can work together to enforce the ordinances of the Borough. Ms. Helwig feels the parking ordinance is a rule on the books and should be able to be figured out. Ms. Helwig stated that she spoke with Attorney Anthony McDonald after the last meeting. Attorney McDonald told her chalking cars is being done in Bloomsburg and Berwick. Ms. Helwig feels frustrated when Chief and Mayor Burke refuse to do this. Ms. Helwig stated she feels it is both Chief Laidacker and Mayor Burke's job to uphold the laws of this Borough. Chief Laidacker stated "I appreciate you not going against the motion because this is required by contract and the result would not be great". Chief Laidacker also stated the police do uphold the laws. It is not anything against wanting to enforce the laws, it is semantics. Chief Laidacker explained that he was told by Attorney Anthony McDonald years ago not to chalk tires. Chief Laidacker gave some history of the conflict over the years enforcing the parking ordinance. Chief Laidacker stated he takes offense to Ms. Helwig saying he does not enforce the laws of the Borough. Ms. Helwig replied that is the way she sees it. Chief Laidacker responded, "I am sorry that is how you see it, but that is incorrect". Chief Laidacker requested a meeting with Ms. Helwig and Attorney McDonald. Ms. Helwig said that's fine, "I feel it would be good to sit down and resolve this". Ms. Helwig expressed how she feels Mayor Burke needs to be involved since there are rules

on the books. Councilman Steinruck announced it is time for Ms. Helwig and Chief Laidacker to sit down and work this out because fingers are being pointed and nothing is getting resolved. Councilman Kevin Ferris asked, isn't the motion on the table to advertise for a Full-Time Police Officer. Chief Laidacker asked if Council would just come talk to him if they have questions before a meeting. Ms. Helwig stated she did bring it to him at a committee meeting and then he went another way and also brought people in who are partial to the police. Chief Laidacker asked Ms. Helwig, what are we talking about. Ms. Helwig said "you know what I am talking about". Chief Laidacker told Ms. Helwig; "you brought it up in a public meeting you need to explain". Ms. Helwig explained the man that came to the Council Meeting was partial to the police. Chief Laidacker stated he did not bring anyone and again "you are accusing me". Councilman Ferris interrupted asking isn't the motion for a Full-Time Officer. Councilman Steinruck said yes, this arguing point isn't even on the agenda. Chief Laidacker finished with "be careful, very careful, of what you accuse me of in a public meeting. I will contact an attorney and I am not kidding". Ms. Helwig asked "what did I accuse you of"? Chief replied "you just accused me of rallying someone to come to a public meeting. I had nothing to do with that. That is a false accusation. Just be careful with it. Remember the forum you are in; this is a public meeting. Do not do that". Councilman Steinruck stated it is time to move on. Councilman AJ McKenney asked if there was a standard ad to use for the requirements. Manager of Administration Connie Cole replied yes. 3-Aye, 1-Nay; Gary Steinruck Motion carries

- A motion was made by AJ McKenney, 2nd by Kevin Ferris to approve the resignation of Officer Paul Allen effective immediately. All Aye
- A motion was made by Gary Steinruck, 2nd by AJ McKenney to approve advertising for a Part-Time Officer. All Aye

FINANCE PAYMENT OF BILLS:

- A motion was made by Gary Steinruck, 2nd by Kevin Ferris to accept bills as written and any others that may arise before the next council meeting. All Aye

GUESTS TO BE HEARD:

- No guests to be heard.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

MEETING ADJOURNED

Submitted by:

Connie M. Cole
Manager of Administration